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## Trends in Migration to Coastal and Perimetropolitan NSW: End of an Era or Cycles of Growth?

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### **Abstract**

Analysis of internal migration data from 1991 and 1996 Population and Housing Censuses indicates that the outflow of people to non-metropolitan coastal regions of New South Wales (NSW) slowed dramatically between 1986-1991 and 1991-1996. Over the same period migration gains to perimetropolitan areas adjacent to Sydney continued apace. In fact the population outflow to Sydney's perimetropolitan areas in the 1990s exceeded the outflow to the NSW coast.

This paper documents those demographic shifts using internal migration data. Preliminary results from a survey of 1200 people living in perimetropolitan and coastal areas shed light on location choices being made between the two types of non-metropolitan region. Data cover reasons for movement into those types of localities and the relative importance of economic, social and lifestyle factors, controlled for period of residence. On the basis of this information, together with a general model of metropolitan/non-metropolitan relationships, inferences are drawn as to likely longer term trends in the balance between perimetropolitan and coastal growth patterns.