

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 November 2022 7:51 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: IPART SUBMISSION TEXT VERSION NB USE THIS VERSION

Local Government: Review of the rate peg methodology: Issues Paper - Review of rate peg methodology - September 2022

## SUBMISSION

[REDACTED]

1. Local Rate Payers should Not be paying Increased Rate Pegs because the NSW State Government has opened Australia's largest gaol in Our LGA (Clarence Valley).

The NSW State Government forced this privatised (SERCO) prison on us.

SERCO Pay No Rates and No Section Fees.

Now We will be paying even more because of the large number of prisoners included in the ABS population count for this LGA.

We now have the 3rd highest Rate Cap for 2023/24 in NSW.

The NSW State Government did this. They should pay for it.

2. All extra monies paid in FY 2023/24 because of the SERCO prison numbers should be deducted from the Rate Peg set for 2024/25.

3. The methodology for determining Rate Caps should formally recognise and include Peoples Ability to Pay.

This could be achieved by considering the Median Income for the LGA or the SEIFA scores for the LGA.

Australia applies progressive taxation formulas to other forms of taxation. Why should Rates be treated differently?

Our LGA is generally older and poorer than most (though inclusion of the now 1,500 prisoners, and soon to be 1,700 (generally aged between 20 and 49), obfuscates the actual demographic.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 9:43 PM

[REDACTED]  
Subject: IPARTS Application of a 5.4 percent Rate Peg for 2023 2034 CVC LGA

[REDACTED]  
Rate Peg Methodology  
NSW IPART

[REDACTED]  
As discussed:

IPART have applied a 5.4% Rate Peg to Clarence Valley Councils LGA for financial year 2023/2024.

This LGA now has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest Increase in NSW Rate Pegs for FY 2023/2024 as a result.

Most of this increase, above the 3.7% floor, is due to so called 'population growth'.

The Australia Bureau of Statistics notes the 2016 Census Population for this LGA as: 50,671 persons.

<https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2016/LGA11730>

The Australia Bureau of Statistics notes the 2021 Census Population for this LGA as: 54,115 persons.

<https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA11730>

A total increase of 3,444 people in 5 years.

Remove the number of prisoners forced into incarceration in this LGA by the NSW State Government, and the actual increase over that same 5 year period drops to 2,332 (and that's just the impact from the SERCO mega prison that recently opened). The Clarence has at least one other gaol which while it is much smaller, also adds to the number of incarcerated people included in the Clarence LGA population count.

The SERCO gaol opened in July of 2020 with a total of 90 prisoners. It has continued to grow at about the same number of prisoners per month since. Maximum capacity is currently set at about 1,700 prisoners,

though there has been mention of Australia's largest gaol exceeding those numbers in CVC emails.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-03/australias-largest-prison-clarence-correctional-centre-12-months/100264342>

Estimated Person Increases throughout that 5 year period were much lower.

From 2010 to 2021, the population in the Clarence was close to zero on the X axis.

An examination of the CVC's own Table from Councils website shows the low growth rates.:

<https://profile.id.com.au/clarence-valley/five-year-age-groups>

The Table is also attached to this email. It clearly shows both the disproportionate impact of the local prison population (mainly between the ages of 20 & 49) and the actual population increases from 69 to 85 and above years.

Clarence Valley Councils interactive age pyramid from 1991 to 2021 shows the shrinking demographic in most of the 5 year age ranges less than 55 years, when compared with its own population over time, and the rest of NSW.

<https://profile.id.com.au/clarence-valley/age-sex-pyramid>

This also coincides with increases in the number of age care facilities, of which a significant number are run as Not For Profits and like the prisons; they too pay No Rates and No Section Fees.

In their attached email, the Australian Bureau of Statistics noted that 1,112 people were residing at the SERCO prison on Census night 2021.

Clarence Valley Councils own website shows a population increase of 1,400 people from the year ended June 2020 to year ended June 2021.

<https://profile.id.com.au/clarence-valley/population-estimate>

Assuming the profile.id company we pay tens of thousands of dollars for, has managed to read the figures provided by the ABS correctly: Once the number of new prisoners for that financial year are subtracted: the CVC LGA had a total population increase of just 288 people (mostly older and retired).

A pdf copy of CVC's Table is also attached to this email.

By Not omitting the new prisoners from IPART's comparison growth figures when imposing the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Rate Peg on the people living in

the Clarence: IPART has placed an unfair burden on people who are amongst the poorest in NSW (by both SEIFA scores and median income).

ABS 2021 Census notes: Median Personal Weekly Income for people aged over 15 years in CVC's LGA as \$578

ABS 2021 Census notes: Median Personal Weekly Income for people aged over 15 years in NSW as \$813.

<https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA11730>

As to SEIFA scores for disadvantage:

Councils own website shows that Only one small area within the Clarence exceeded the Australian average (Angourie and Palmers Island with a combined population of about 550 people.)

All other areas were below the Australian mean, with our 3<sup>rd</sup> largest town (South Grafton Population 6,288) having an average SEIFA score for disadvantage approximately 2 standard deviations below the Australian Mean.

<https://profile.id.com.au/clarence-valley/seifa-disadvantage-small-area>

It is neither fair, nor reasonable, that the NSW Government via IPART has placed this increased burden on people in the Clarence Valley, because that same NSW State Government has imposed Australia's largest prison on us.

While I note that I advised IPART of the possibility of this occurring, while IPART was still deciding on how the 2023/24 Rate Cap was to be calculated:

I'm assuming that this unwarranted burden was a simple error, rather than an intended outcome.

Please restore the true population count to the formula IPART uses to calculate the Rate Cap for 2023/24 as soon as possible, and advise Clarence Valley Council before they plan their budget for 2023/24.

Many thanks,



[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 23 September 2022 12:36 PM

[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: 2021 Census Prisoners at the SERCO gaol in Grafton NSW [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi [REDACTED]

Our Census data team has provided the below information for you:

- - -

The first release of 2021 Census data was released on 28 June 2022. Any corrections that have been made to the 2021 Census data since it has been released are all listed within the [2021 Census data corrections](#) page on the ABS website. As you will note, no changes have been made to population counts for any geographies since this release.

We have been able to locate the Clarence Correctional Centre within the Mesh Block 10917760000, with a total population of 1,112 persons. Mesh Blocks are the smallest geographical area defined by the ABS and form the building blocks for the larger regions of the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\)](#).

This Mesh Block contributes to the following areas (and more):

- [Glenugie Suburbs and Localities \(SAL\)](#)
- [Clarence Valley Local Government Area \(LGA\)](#)
- [2460 Postal Area \(POA\)](#)

When looking at the 2021 Census demographic data for these regions, it's important to note that limited data is collected for people who were in prisons or other correctional institutions as the most effective and efficient way to collect their information is through available administrative data sources. This data is usually limited to Age, Sex, Indigenous status, Country of birth of person, and Registered marital status. Any remaining Census variables that are not collected are set to "Not stated" or "Not applicable".

- - -

Hope this answers your question, thanks for your patience!

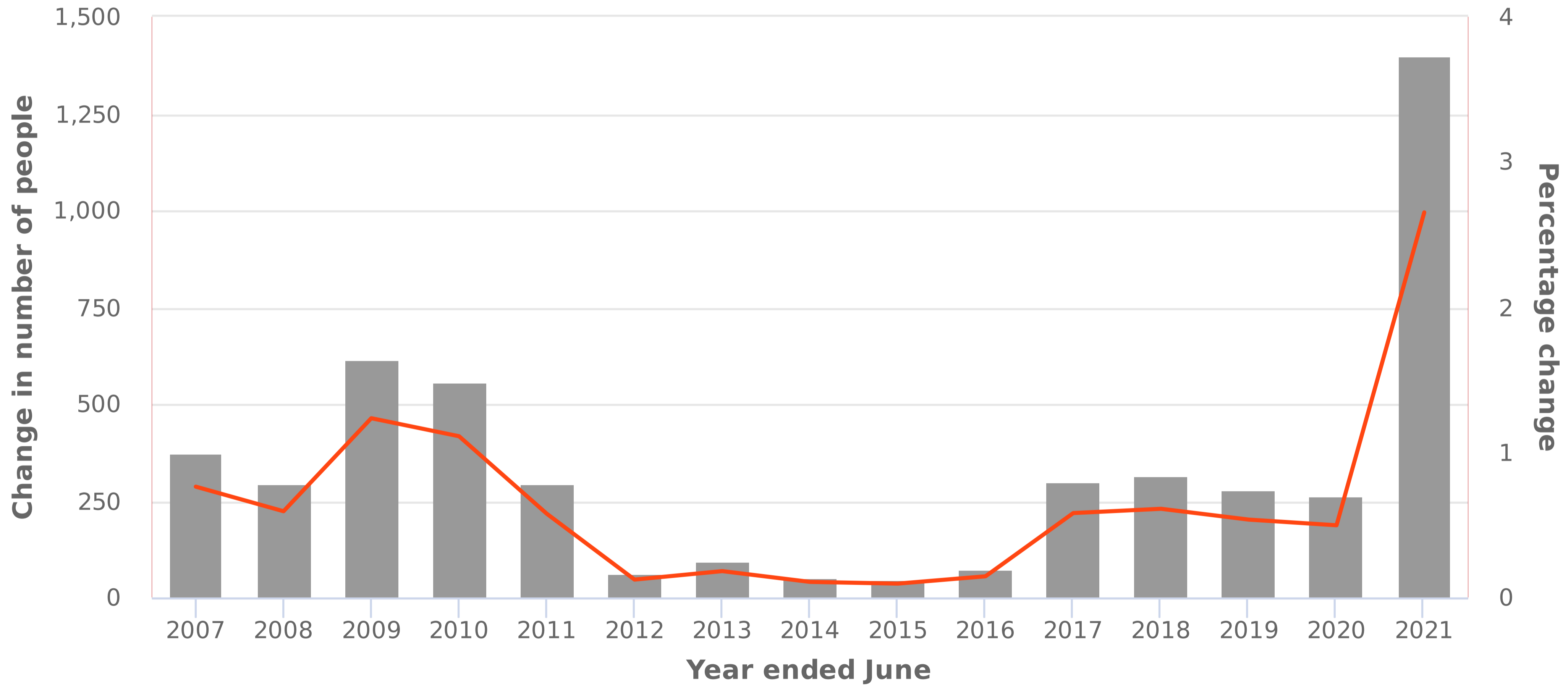
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

# Annual change in Estimated Resident Population (ERP)

Clarence Valley Council area

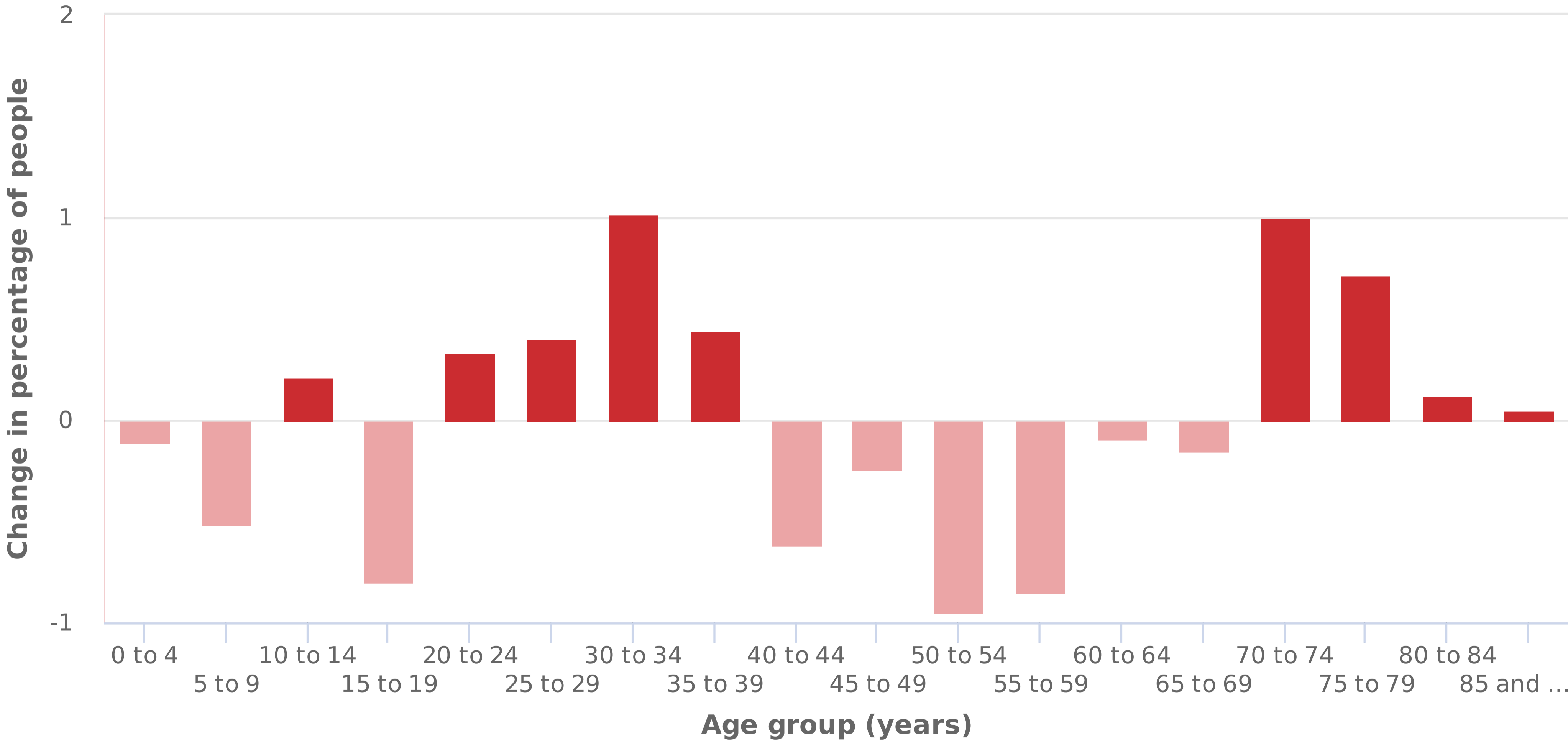
Percentage change Change in number



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0). Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions)

# Change in age structure - five year age groups, 2016 to 2021

Clarence Valley Council area - Total persons



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 and 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).