

# Waikato Projections Working Group

## Meeting Notes

Tuesday 31 July 2018, 2.30 – 3.30pm

Waikato Regional Council, RIG Room

### Objective

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss Stats NZ's recently announced delays with the release of 2018 Census data and products, including the implications this may have on the Waikato projections work.

### Attendants

Beat Huser (WRC- Chair), Myk Cameron (University of Waikato), Nathan Dalgety (HCC), Stafford Hodgson (HCC), David Totman (Waipa DC), Kylie Meredith (Waitomo DC), Janet Amey (WRC), Hemopereki Simon (SWDC), Dyfed Thomas (WDHB), Craig Briggs (WRC), Donna Tracey (Waikato DC), Megan Kettle (NZTA).

### Apologies

Tony Fenton (Alchemists Ltd), Greg Carstens (HCC), Keith Hornsby (HCC), Anton Marais (WDC), Vishal Ramduny (Waikato DC), Gary Knighton (Waipa DC), Nick Carroll (TDC), Hadley Tattle (TDC), Niall Baker ((MPDC), Greg Morton (WRC), Regan Webb (WDHB).

**Note:** Presentation (ppt) and the revised work brief for University of Waikato can be accessed together with these notes from:

[www.creatingfutures.org.nz/waikato-projections-demographic-and-economic/projections-working-group/](http://www.creatingfutures.org.nz/waikato-projections-demographic-and-economic/projections-working-group/)

### 2018 Census – delays with release of data

End July 2018 Statistics NZ has released a statement that as a result of the much lower than expected fill-in rate (90%, compared to 94.5% in 2013) more work will be needed to fill-in the data gaps. This will result in some delays in releasing Census data< see:

[www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-potential-impacts-of-revised-methodology](http://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-potential-impacts-of-revised-methodology)<<http://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/2018-census-potential-impacts-of-revised-methodology>>.

WRC has invited Stats NZ to attend today's meeting, their response is included in **Appendix 1**.

While Stats NZ notes that the quality of the data will not be compromised, they indicate that more time is required. Myk Cameron (University of Waikato) confirmed that data quality will not be an issue for most products. However, the release of data, especially household data and data for small areas (including SA2), is likely to be delayed for up to six months.

Our current timeline (see diagram next page) was planned to make the projection data available by Feb 2020 in time for preparing the LTP 2021-2031. This will now have to be revised, from a 'best case' scenario of April 2020 to a 'worst case' scenario of August/September 2020. With the exception of the first release of census data, now postponed from October 2018 to March 2019, no other release dates have been confirmed. Note that the household data, critical for the Waikato projection work, is usually amongst the last data releases.

Our target delivery date of all projections data (February 2020) may not be able to be met. If that is the case, it was suggested to use the current projections based on the 2013 Census, at least in the initial LTP 2012-2031 process. Councils agreed with this approach, and supported to go ahead with the timeline as per the diagram below, noticing some uncertainty in the delivery data.

## Waikato Projections – timeline and deliverables

The diagram below summarises the tasks and timeline agreed by the Projection Working Group at our last meeting in March 2018, indicating potential delays in the release of Stats NZ data.

The deliverables were confirmed, with one change: It was requested that the projections for the TA level data should be undertaken at yearly time steps. Myk agreed to include this at no extra cost.

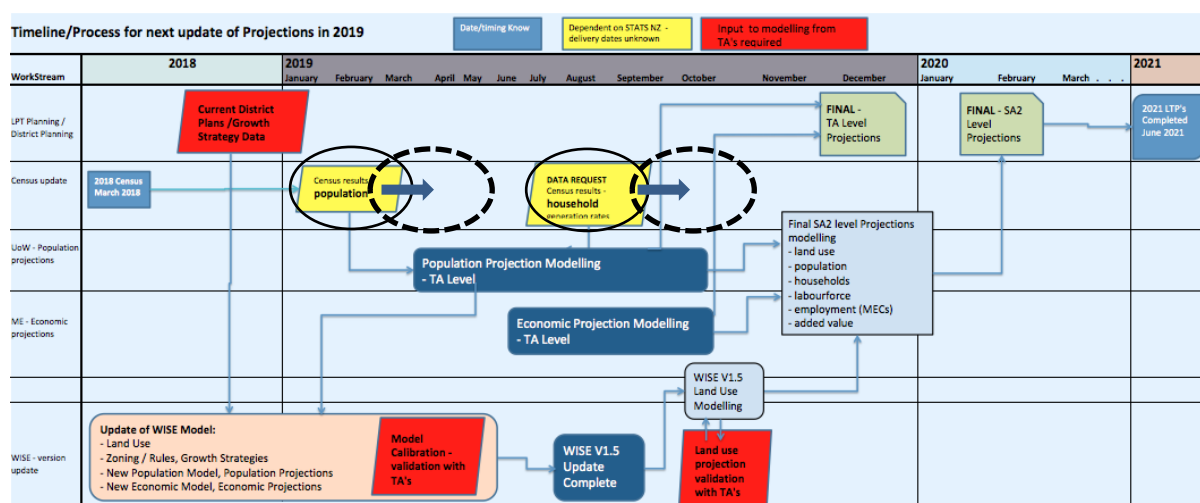
Confirmed projections data to be delivered by February 2020 (subject to delays of Stats NZ data releases):

- **By Territorial Authority Boundary** (yearly time steps):
  - o Land Use (by WISE land use class)
  - o Population (by gender/age cohorts)
  - o Households (by household type)
  - o Labour force
  - o Employment (as Modified Employee Counts, MEC's)
  - o Value Added (\$m)
- **By SA2 (new Census Area Units) boundary** (time steps 2018, 2025, 2035, 2045, 2055, 2065):
  - o Land Use (by WISE land use class)
  - o Population (total)
  - o Households (total)
  - o Labour force
  - o Employment (as MEC's)
  - o Value Added (\$m)

Separate reports will be produced for TA and Small Area (SA2) projections, summarising data regionally and by district. Councils agreed that the (initial) projections will be based on a medium scenario. HCC expressed the possibility of subsequently undertaking low (or high) projections, depending on the results of the medium projections. Additional costs for low/high (\$12k) is not included in the contract and would have to be covered by the TA(s) requiring other than medium projections.

Data by settlement/urban areas for these projected parameters could be derived by simple summation of appropriate SA2 units. For further details (e.g. deriving projections for dwellings, rating units) refer to the 'Issues and Options' paper on the [website](#).

WRC is progressing the detailed specification and contracting of the various work streams required to update the population, economic and land use/zoning data and projections based on the 2018 Census. The final work brief with the specs for the contract are available from the [website](#).



## Appendix 1 Census 2018 data releases - response from Stats NZ

**From:** Census External Relations - Shared Mailbox [mailto:censusexternalrelations@stats.govt.nz]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 July 2018 2:19 p.m.

**To:** Beat Huser <Beat.Huser@waikatoregion.govt.nz>; Census External Relations - Shared Mailbox <censusexternalrelations@stats.govt.nz>

**Subject:** RE: 2018 Census Products & Services: Paper provided and Opportunity for Feedback

Kia Ora Dr Huser,

Thank you for the invitation to the webinar you are holding on the 31<sup>st</sup> July. Unfortunately we will be unable to attend this seminar as we are not in a position to provide an update other than the information in this email and our [media release](#). Census is working towards a first release at the end of March 2019 and revisiting other dates as we better understand and assess the data.

In September we should know more and are planning to hold seminars across the regions throughout September 2018 to update our key customers about the progress of the 2018 Census. The seminars will be an opportunity for stakeholders and agencies to provide feedback and find out the latest about 2018 Census. We will provide more information and how to register your interest in early August.

As a technical user of census data, your support and input is greatly valued. We currently have an *the online* forum – Loomio where we would encourage you to join. This forum includes technical data users an opportunity to proactively engage, provide feedback or comment on our revised methodology, and to help us understand the impacts the methodology changes and delays have on your data needs. We also have separate forums for the content development of 2018 Census Products and Services including; Health & Disability, Housing, and Maori & iwi.

### **We will send you an invitation to join the online engagement on Loomio**

To join, simply click 'Accept Invitation' in the email, create your log-in, and you will be added to the forum. It is recommended to use Google Chrome as your browser when accessing Loomio, and if you experience any issues joining the group, please do get in touch.

Another important channel to be kept updated is through our **Census Advisory** newsletter, which is our most important communication channel for customers and stakeholders that runs throughout the census cycle. We encourage you to [opt-in here](#) if you would like to be kept up to date on key census information regarding the operational phase, products and services development, and data dissemination.

If there you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in contact. We value your input and support, and look forward to engaging with you soon.

Ngā mihi,

Candy Zhang

**2018 Census Customer Relations Advisor**

**Kaiwhakamaherehere Whanaungatanga Kiritaki mo te Tatauranga 2018**

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**From:** Beat Huser <[Beat.Huser@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:Beat.Huser@waikatoregion.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Monday, 23 July 2018 5:35 PM

**To:** Census External Relations - Shared Mailbox <[censusexternalrelations@stats.govt.nz](mailto:censusexternalrelations@stats.govt.nz)>; [teresa.evans-turner@stas.govt.nz](mailto:teresa.evans-turner@stas.govt.nz)

**Subject:** RE: 2018 Census Products & Services: Paper provided and Opportunity for Feedback

Hi Kimberley

I'm coordinating the Waikato Projection Working Group to produce population, employment, employment and land use projections down to the SA2 level for the eleven Waikato councils, NZTA and other agencies. The Working Group has agreed to the deliverables and a timeline, see diagram below, and I am starting contracting the various service providers.

Given the recently announced delays with the release of the 2018 Census data we have arranged a meeting to discuss the actual and potential implications this may have on the timeline of 'agreed' deliverables. The meeting is on **Tues 31 July 2.30-3.30** and we are aiming to do it as a webinar.

We would appreciate very much if you or someone else from StatsNZ would be able to attend. Please let me know.

Many thanks

Beat

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