



Ref: [REDACTED]

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24 November 2021

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E LGOIMA@ncc.govt.nz  
[nelson.govt.nz](http://nelson.govt.nz)

Dear [REDACTED]

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON POPULATION GROWTH AND DEMOGRAPHICS REPORT.**

I refer to your official information request dated 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for further clarification on population growth and demographics report that was tabled at the meeting of the Urban Development Sub-committee on 29 July 2021.

The questions you have asked are answered below along with attached supporting information.

- (1) What was its rationale for choosing to prepare its own projections "in-house" rather than employ Statistics NZ's projections?

**Response: In order to allow time for the Nelson City Council Long Term Plan 2021-31 (LTP) to be prepared, population projections need to be finalised approximately 12 months before adoption of the LTP. At that time the 2018 census base Statistics NZ projections were not available due to difficulties they experienced in the 2018 census. The 2013 census base projections were considered to be too 'old' at that point so the decision was made to prepare custom projections.**

**This decision was further supported by the absence of any consideration of the effects of COVID19 on population growth in the 2013 census base projections that were available to us.**

- (2) Why did the Council not commission "another provider" to provide a set of "bespoke" projections as allowed for in the NPSUD "Guide on Evidence and Monitoring" and as the Tasman District Council did and other local authorities have done?

**Response: In the experience of the officers that were involved in this decision, the relatively complex models that traditional demographers use are not easy for elected officials and the general public to interrogate and understand. In particular, linking the effects of a likely COVID19 related recession to population change is a topic that it was felt may not be communicated appropriately.**

Internal Document ID: [REDACTED]

**In comparison, Tasman District Council needed to finalise their projections closer to two years prior to their LTP being notified. As a result, their projections were finalised prior to the first COVID19 lockdown and were unable to be changed. The much longer lead-in time for Tasman District Council is related to how they operate their growth model which informs their LTP.**

- (3) What "range of projections" did Council set out before selecting its own in-house projections as the most likely?

**Response: The custom projection along with the Statistics NZ 2013 census base 'high' and 'medium' series projections were considered.**

- (4) What specific inputs (assumptions) did NCC employ to generate its "recommended" population projection as laid out in the above report and used as the basis for Nelson's Housing and Building Capacity Assessment? By "specific assumptions" we refer to the actual numbers or rates for the following standard demographic variables employed in population projections:

- a. The number of births by 5-year age group of the mother (15-49) for each year of the projection period or age-specific birth rates for each 5-year period.
- b. The assumed sex ratio at birth in each year of the projection.
- c. Changes, if any, in the age distribution of fertility over the projection period.
- d. The number of net migrants by age and sex in 5-year age groups over the projection period or the net migration rates by age and sex for each 5-year period over the projection period.
- e. Changes, if any, in the age/sex distribution of net migration over the projection period.
- f. The age-sex distribution of deaths, either in the form of the central death rates by age and sex) or by means of an abridged (5-year) life table separately for males and females. If a lifetable was employed, specify the source of the life table and the year of its construction.

**Response: The method that was utilised was a simplified one that did not rely on the complexity of the variable detailed in the question above. The approach used was to use the individual components of births, deaths and net migration supplied as part of the Statistics NZ 2013 census base projections for each of its high, medium and low series and pick and choose these based on the expected effect that COVID19 would have on them.**

**For example, births are usually lower during recessionary periods and therefore the births numbers from the low or medium series would be used at the beginning of the projection period that COVID19 was expected to have an effect. Deaths on the other hand were not expected to be any higher than usual due to the conservative response that the NZ government had to COVID19 so the medium series death numbers were used.**

**It is acknowledged that there are limitations to using this approach in that the variables are not independent of each other. To mitigate this, Infometrics were asked to review and comment on the method and final results.**

(5) How did the Council combine these assumptions and make the calculations of their effects on future population trends? That is, what specific population projections computer programme did the Council use?

**Response: To build up the final population projection, each of the components chosen for each period were summed. This approach then gave the final 30 year projection.**

(6) When the Council requested Infometrics (a specialist economics and demographics consultancy) to review its draft "Population Growth and Demographics" report, what specific advice did infometrics provide? Please provide a copy of the correspondence between NCC and Infometrics in relation to this matter. How were the Council's projections revised subsequent to receiving Infometrics' advice?

**Response: All relevant correspondence between NCC and Infometrics as well as the two memos/reports from Infometrics have been attached. The amount of fees quoted by Infometrics for this work has been withheld on the basis that release would likely prejudice their commercial position – s.7(2)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) refers. The sole change made in response to the recommendation from Infometrics is a change from a low birth rate in the short term to a medium birth rate.**

(7) When deciding to recommend its own projection as the "most likely", what other projections did the Nelson City Council consider and what were the reasons why Council selected its own "Bespoke" projection as the most likely.

**Response: The custom projection along with the Statistics NZ 2013 census base 'high' and 'medium' series projections were considered. The Statistics NZ projections did not take into account any likely effects of COVID19 but was referred to for context. The chosen projection sits somewhere between the high and medium series in the longer term and was considered to more reasonably predict the short to medium term effects of a recession relating to COVID19.**

(8) Has the NCC revised its population projections since preparing its Housing and Business Capacity Assessment of July, 2021? If not, when does Council plan to update its projections or to commission a provider to carry out an update?

**Response: The population projections have not been updated since the HBA was completed in July 2021. Population projections are typically prepared every three years prior to the LTP. It is expected that the next projections will be commissioned to be completed in around mid 2023.**

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Chris Pawson - Senior Analyst - City Development.

Yours sincerely



**Clare Barton**  
Group Manager Environmental Management

Encl:

- Infometrics projection peer review June 2020.pdf
- Infometrics population projections review Feb 2021.pdf
- RE\_ Nelson Population projection.msg
- RE\_ Review of post COVID19 population projection report.msg

# Review of post COVID population projection **for Nelson City Council**

June 2020



**Infometrics**

Economics put simply

## Authorship

This report has been prepared by Nick Brunsdon

Email:

[nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz](mailto:nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz)

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# Table of contents

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<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Analysis.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Population .....	5
Births .....	6
Deaths.....	7
Net migration .....	7
Age profile.....	7
Employment.....	9
International net migration.....	9
Post-COVID considerations .....	10
Conclusion.....	10
<b>Households.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Age profile.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Recommendations.....</b>	<b>12</b>

# Introduction

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Infometrics was commissioned by Nelson City Council (NCC) to review their post-COVID population projections and provide recommendations in regards to the assumptions, evaluation of economic impacts and effects on population, the level of uncertainty, and particular Nelson characteristics that differ from a nationwide approach and the conclusions. NCC has developed these projections to use in developing its Asset Management Plans (AMPs) and Long Term Plan (LTP).

# Analysis

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The approach employed in the NCC projections was to update the Stats NZ population projection for Nelson City by applying projected birth, death and net migration numbers from Stats NZ to the latest population estimate. This is a very effective approach for updating population projections without running a full cohort-component projection model. However, such an approach can struggle to account for changes in the population size or age structure.

Infometrics operates a full cohort-component projection model, which means that we can apply detailed assumptions of the Stats NZ 2013-base projections to the latest population estimates.

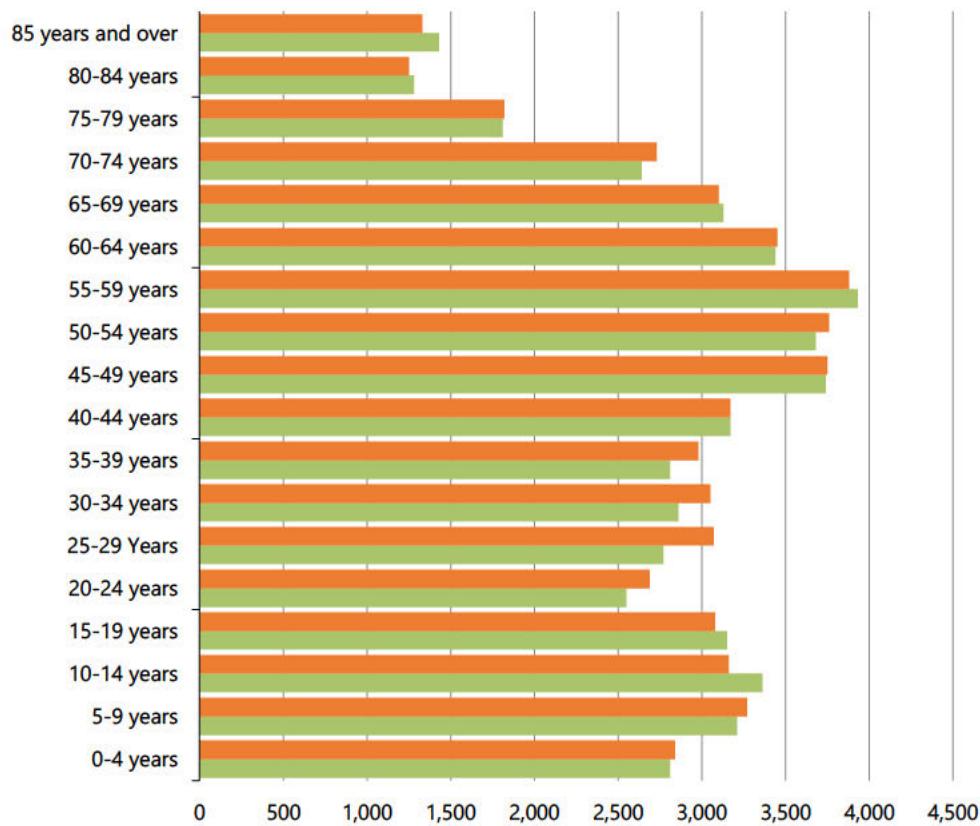
## Population

Nelson City's population in 2018 (based on the Stats NZ Estimated Resident Population (ERP)) is larger and younger than projected in the 2013-base projections, in part due to stronger than anticipated international net migration. The overall population was 1.2% larger than projected. The population 20 to 39 years of age was notably larger, and the population 80 years of age and older was smaller. This change means that the projected numbers of Stats NZ's 2013-base projections are slightly out of date, even if the underlying rates (such as fertility and mortality) used to derive them are still relevant.

**Chart 1****Nelson City Population by age in 2018**

Stats NZ estimate and projection

2018 Estimate 2013 Projection

**Births**

Applying the age-specific fertility rates (ASFR) of the Stats NZ 2013-base population projection to the 2018 ERP suggests around 200-300 more births than indicated by the birth numbers of the 2013-base projection, as population of childbearing age was larger in 2018 than projected in 2013.

**Table 1****Live births in Nelson City, by projection scenario and approach**

Total for five-years ending June 2023

Projection approach	Low	Medium	High
Stats NZ projection characteristics	2,500	2,700	2,900
Applying Stats NZ age-specific fertility rates to 2018 ERP	2,794	2,955	3,117

Therefore, a low fertility scenario (as may be expected in recessionary conditions) suggests births of 2,794 over the five years to June 2023, which is commensurate with the number of births indicated in Stats NZ's medium projection characteristics. We

accept NCC's assessment that the recession will adversely affect birth rates, and therefore recommend the adoption the medium birth scenario numbers over the next ten years.

NCC notes the trend of generally reducing birth rates in first world countries. The Stats NZ ASFR projection do incorporate this trend, include facets such as delayed onset of childbearing, fewer children per family, and an increase proportion of childless couples. We would recommend the adoption of the high birth number scenario after 10 years, as this reflects the trend of reducing birth rates while also reflecting Nelson City's recently strong growth in the population of childbearing age.

## Deaths

Applying the age-specific mortality rates (ASMR) of the Stats NZ 2013-base population projection to the 2018 estimated resident population (ERP) suggests between 59 and 185 fewer deaths under than indicated by the death numbers of the 2013-base projection.

The 2018 ERP for Nelson indicates a younger population than was anticipated in Stats NZ's 2013 base projection, with a slightly smaller population in the 80 years and older age group. This has led to a slightly lower number of deaths than anticipated.

**Table 2**

### **Deaths in Nelson City, by projection scenario and approach**

Total for five-years ending June 2023

Projection approach	Low	Medium	High
Stats NZ projection characteristics	2,400	2,300	2,300
Applying Stats NZ age-specific mortality rates to 2018 ERP	2,341	2,214	2,115

These differences are broadly commensurate with the variation that might be expected between different projection approaches, and therefore doesn't inform a change in projection scenario. We agree with NCC's assessment that COVID-19 is unlikely to directly affect the number of deaths in New Zealand. We agree with NCC's adoption of the medium death number projection scenario.

## Net migration

Net migration flows represent a range of life stages, meaning that are subject to a range of drivers, each of which will be affected differently by the COVID-19 induced recession. The age profile of net migrants to Nelson illustrates how different life stages contribute to net migration overall.

### Age profile

Chart 2 shows the assumed age profile of net migrants to Nelson, based on the Stats NZ 2013 base population projections, which reflects historic trends.

Most prominently, this shows a strong outflow in the 20-24 year old age group, and only positive flows in the 15-19 and 25-29 age groups – this portrays young people leaving the city after completing their schooling, for tertiary education, employment or experiences outside the district. With an expected increase in tertiary education participation during the upcoming recession, it seems likely that this negative flow will remain relatively untouched.

Strong flows in the 35 to 44 year old age groups, associated with flows in the 5-14 age group, are likely to represent young families moving to Nelson for employment or schooling. This flow is likely to be sensitive to economic conditions, and therefore may ease as a result of COVID-19.

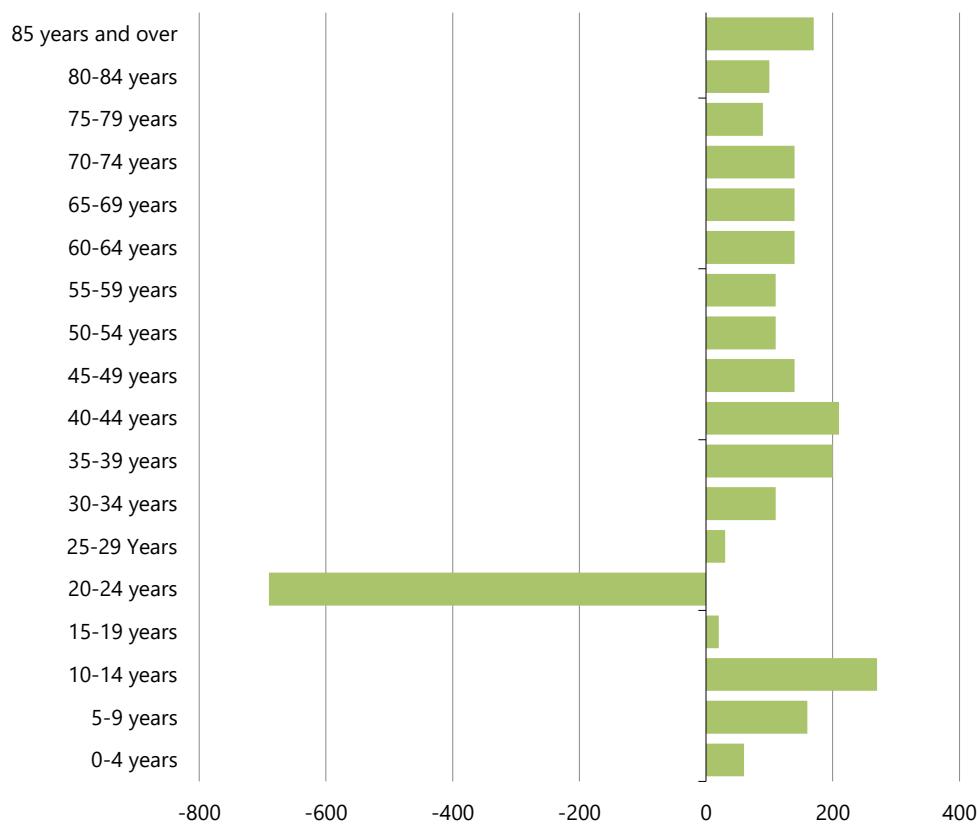
Nelson enjoys relatively strong net migration of retirees. In the 60-74 year old age groups, this may be somewhat sensitive to economic conditions, as migrants may need to sell their previous house in order to move to Nelson. Beyond the age of 75, net migration is likely to be driven by a need to be closer to family or specialist healthcare services, a flow that is likely to be relatively unaffected by economic conditions.

## Chart 2

### Nelson City net migration by age

Stats NZ projection for five years to 2023

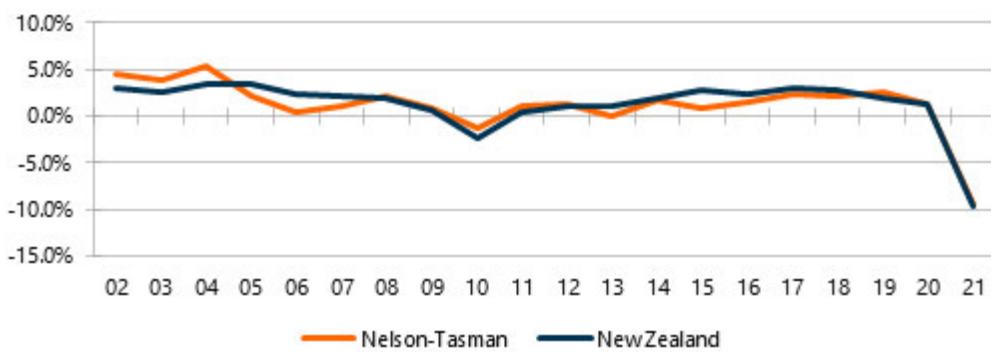
■ 2013 Projection



## Employment

The availability of employment is a key driver of the migration of the working age population. In considering the impact of employment on net migration into Nelson, it is important to include Tasman as well, as both areas share a combined urban with strong commuting flows in between. The 2018 Census recorded 3,900 workers commuting from Tasman District into Nelson City, and 2,034 workers from Nelson City into Tasman District. Infometrics forecasts employment in Nelson-Tasman declining by 5,300 over the year to March 2021 as a result of COVID-19. This fall of 9.5% is broadly consistent with national decline of 9.8%, meaning that in relative terms, Nelson-Tasman will remain as attractive for employment as the rest of New Zealand.

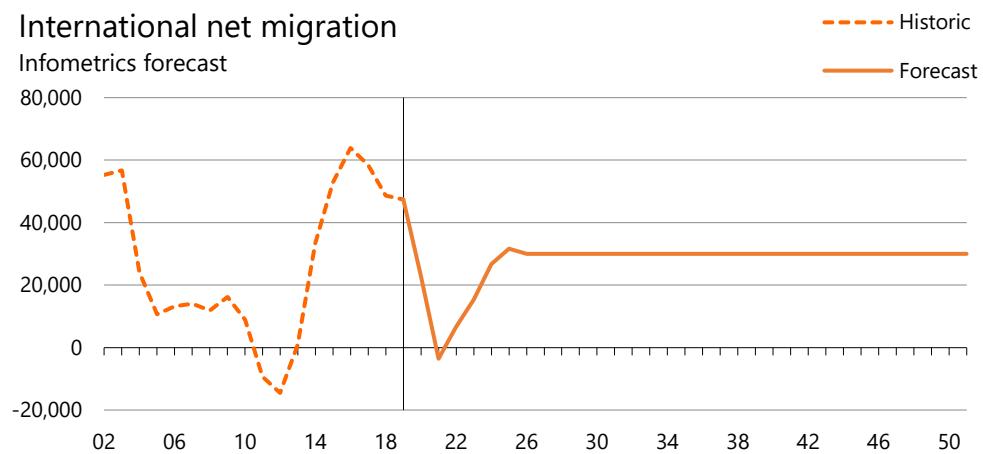
**Chart 3. Employment growth in Nelson-Tasman, 2002-2021**



## International net migration

New Zealand has enjoyed very high levels of international net migration for the past five years, and a transition to lower levels was already underway. However, COVID-19 has hastened this transition. In the near term, restrictions on global travel, weak economic conditions, and general reluctance to travel is expected to drive down net migration. Infometrics forecast international net migration to New Zealand to fall to -3,599 for 2021 and 6,670 for 2022, before gradually recovering to our long-term forecast level of 30,000 by 2025.

**Chart 4**



## Post-COVID considerations

There are several special considerations for net migration in the post-COVID environment.

- **Returning New Zealanders.** COVID-19 may encourage a wave of expat New Zealanders to return home permanently, as countries such as the UK and USA struggle to contain the disease. These expat flows are likely to be more dispersed into the regional areas such as Nelson, as expats return to where they consider to be 'home'. This is in contrast to normal international net migration flows, which are generally biased towards the larger main centres such as Auckland.
- **Remote working.** COVID-19 has stimulated increasing uptake and acceptance of remote working practices. Over time, this may provide a boost to regional populations as employment opportunities become less of a constraint in choosing where to live. The greatest gains are likely to be areas in commuting distance (i.e. within 2 hours drive or short flight) of main centres, as they enable employees to maintain some face-to-face time with their colleagues.

## Conclusion

Strong outflows of youth are likely to continue throughout the recession, as will inflows of older retirees. However, inflows of working families and young retirees may ease due to the decline in employment in Nelson-Tasman and the liquidity of the housing market across New Zealand. International net migration into Nelson is likely to be close to zero over the next two years due to restrictions and reluctance around international travel. Low levels of skilled migration may continue to address areas of chronic skills shortages.

This supports NCC's projection of roughly zero net migration over the coming two years, and low migration for the three years thereafter. We forecast a return to normalcy around 2025, and agree with NCC's proposed transition to a high migration scenario supported by regular monitoring.

We would note that there will be a wave of retiring workers around mid-2020s through to the mid-2030s, a function of birth rates in the 1950-1970 period. Demand for replacement workers is likely to drive relatively rates of net migration over this period.

## Households

The Infometrics population projection model uses projected living arrangement type rates (LATR) from Stats NZ, which are used in producing their 2013 base household projections. These rates describe the rate which each age-sex group forms different household types in order to estimate the population in each household type, which can in turn be used to estimate the average household size. Applying these rates to the 2018 ERP for Nelson indicates that the average household size in 2018 is broadly consistent with the average household size of Stats NZ's 2013 base household projection. This means that the unexpectedly strong net migration levels of 2013 to 2018 have not significantly skewed the overall household composition of Nelson.

Therefore, we agree with NCC's application of Stats NZ's projected average household size and transition between periods.

## Age profile

We agree that a hybrid population projection approach can present challenges in projecting population. However, we note that NCC's projected population by age is very similar to that of the more detailed Infometrics population projection model.

## Recommendations

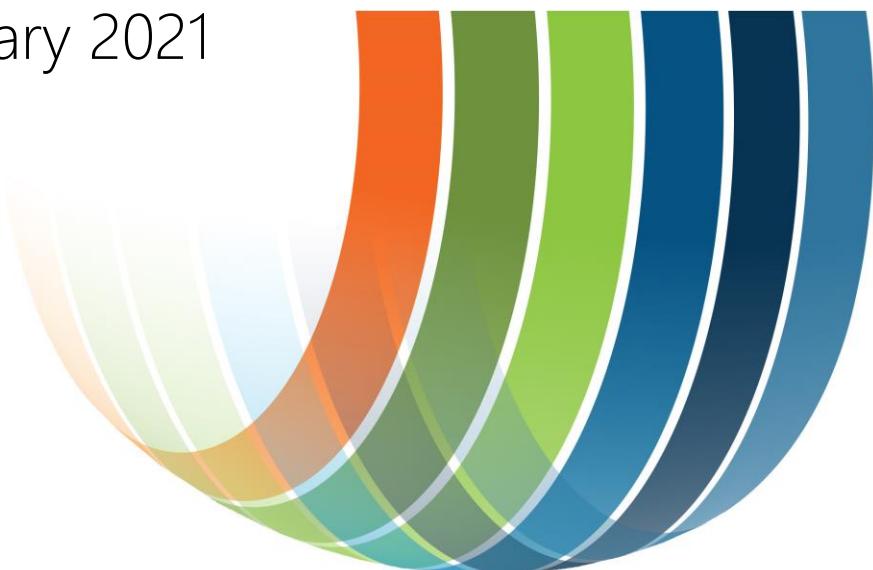
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We agree with NCC's proposed assumptions for deaths and net migration, and the proposed approach for households and population. We recommend a change to the birth scenarios used – to use the medium scenario for next ten years, followed by high scenario.

# Effect of COVID-19 on Nelson's population outlook

## for Nelson City Council

February 2021



**Infometrics**

Economics put simply

## Authorship

This memorandum has been prepared by Nick Brunsdon

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## Introduction

Infometrics was commissioned by Nelson City Council (NCC) to provide a memorandum on what the stronger than expected post-COVID-19 economic performance means for NCC's population projections.

NCC produced population projections in mid-2020, with Infometrics providing a peer review.

In this memorandum, we consider Nelson's relative economic performance post-COVID-19, the outlook for migration, and further considerations.

## Relative economic performance

### Employment grows...

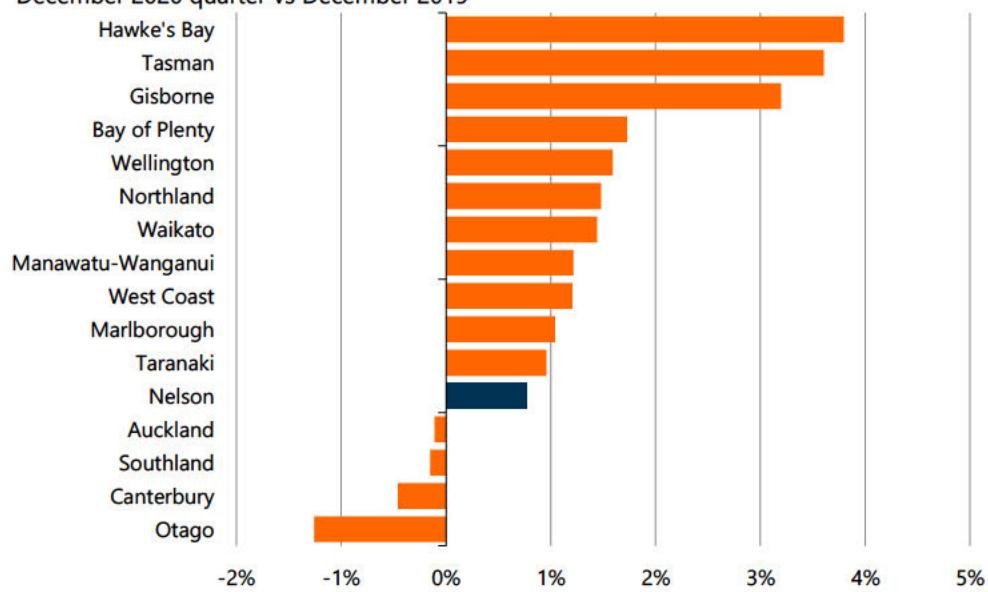
Employment in Nelson grew by 0.8% over the year ending in the December 2020 quarter, despite the adverse effects of COVID-19. Although this is a positive result, it is a relatively weak performance compared to other regions. Nationally, employment growth has been strongest in regions with a strong primary sector base and limited international tourism exposure, such as Gisborne, Hawke's Bay and Tasman. The weakest performing regions tend to have a high exposure to international tourism.

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Graph 1

#### Employment grows in spite of COVID-19

December 2020 quarter vs December 2019

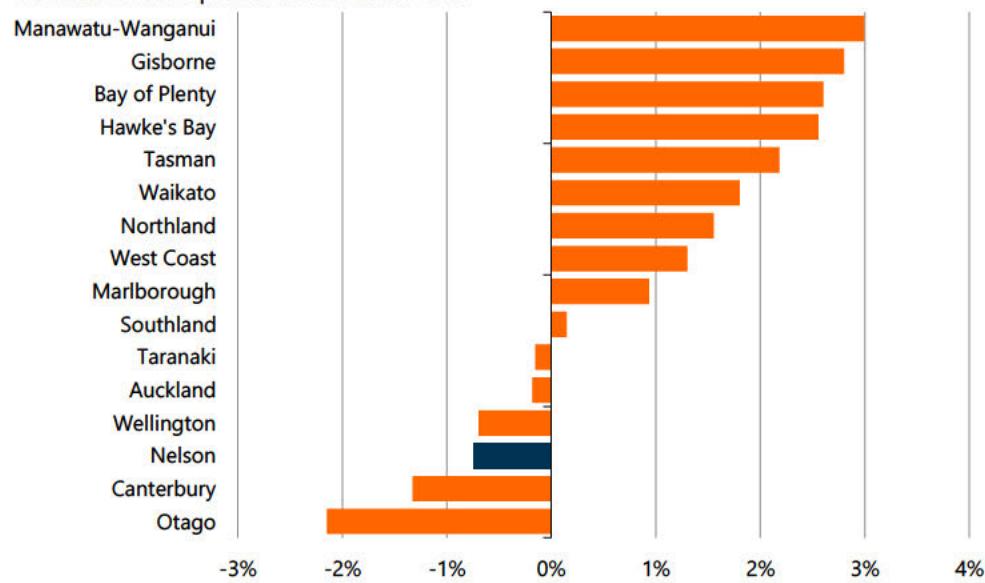


## ...But earnings ease

Nationally, earnings growth has been weaker than employment growth, as some employers have retained their workers but reduced their hourly pay or working hours, reflecting reduced turnover and/or lighter workloads. In Nelson, total earnings declined by 0.7% over the year ending in the December 2020 quarter, despite growth in overall employment.

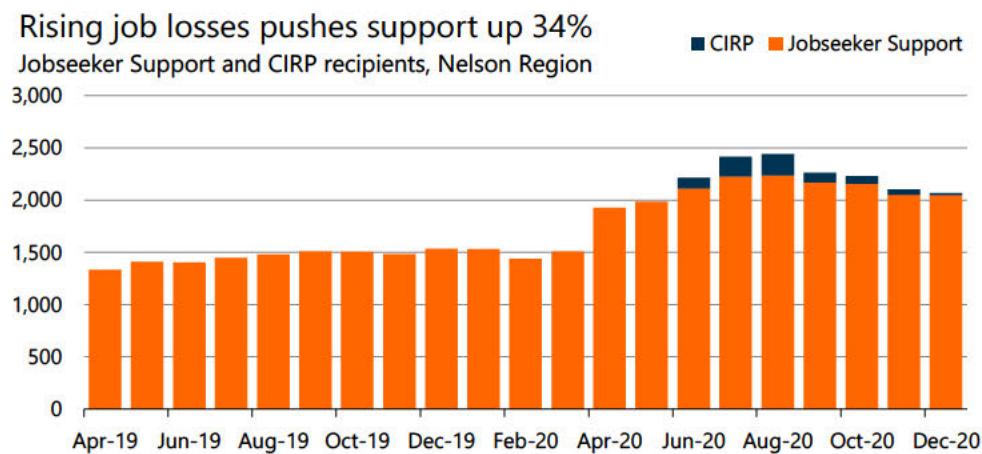
Graph 2

Earnings ease back in Nelson  
December 2020 quarter vs December 2019



## Need for government support rises

The number of people in Nelson relying on government support rose through 2020, starting with a spike in Jobseeker Support (unemployment benefit) recipients as the first lockdown began in April. Including the temporary COVID Income Relief Payment (CIRP), the number of people on government support peaked in August and subsequently eased. As of December 2020, the number of Jobseeker Support recipients in Nelson was 34% higher than a year prior, but has been declining. This suggests that we the City has weathered the worst economic effects of COVID-19, and is beginning to recover.

**Graph 3****Tourism is hardest hit**

The tourism sector has taken the hardest hit from COVID-19, facing a severe drop in demand due to the closure of New Zealand's borders. The areas hardest hit by COVID-19 tend to be those with high exposure to international tourism. In Nelson, 9.8% of employment is associated with tourism, slightly higher than the national average of 8.7%. However, only 31.9% of tourism spending in Nelson comes from international visitors, compared to the national average of 41.5%. This indicates that the region is less exposed to the loss of international tourism than the rest of the country, particularly international tourism hotspots such as Mackenzie, Queenstown-Lakes and Westland Districts.

**Nelson sits in the middle of the pack**

Nelson and New Zealand as a whole have fared better than expected through the COVID-19 pandemic. Employment and earnings growth has been in Nelson has been weaker than many other regions, and there has been a notable uptick in the number of Nelson residents on government unemployment support. On the plus side, Nelson is less vulnerable to the loss of international tourists than many other regions. Altogether, Nelson sits roughly in the middle of the pack of New Zealand's regions. Nelson is unlikely to be the first choice for people migrating for employment, given there is likely to be greater availability of employment opportunities in other regions and that Nelson is one of the more unaffordable regions for housing.

**Migration outlook**

NCC's population projections are based on net migration assumptions which are a composite of domestic and international migration flows.

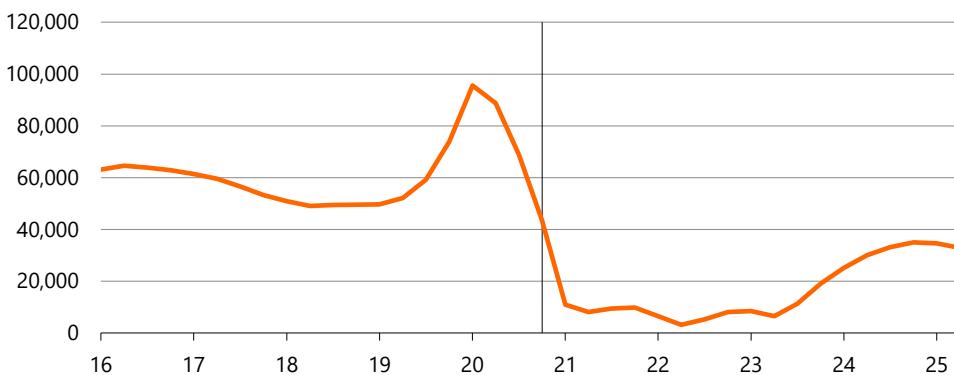
With the current border restrictions, international net migration to New Zealand is extremely limited, with a net inflow of 2,000 people over the three months ending January 2021 (including temporary visitors). We currently expect that our borders will reopen sometime in 2022. However there is a risk that slow vaccine rollout and spread of COVID-19 mutations will delay this reopening. When the borders do reopen, we expect strong outbound migration as foreign nationals (such as those on temporary or holiday

visas) and New Zealanders who returned home temporarily to escape the potential effects of COVID-19 in other countries, return to their normal countries of residence. Equally, we expect strong inbound migration as other New Zealanders and their families (including non-resident partners) return to the country. The net effect of this strong inbound and outbound migration is expected to be a weak net inflow to New Zealand. This inflow is expected to rise over time, trending back to our long-term forecast level of 30,000 net migrants per year.

#### Graph 4

##### International net migration

Annual to New Zealand



Domestic migration to Nelson may be aided by greater uptake of remote working practices. While Nelson has traditionally been an attractive destination for retirees, an enhanced ability to work remotely may entice people to migrate to Nelson during their working careers. In particular, accelerated uptake of working from home practices amongst public sector staff and management may increase the attractiveness of the City for Wellington-based workers. While this effect cannot be quantified with the data currently available, it is worth noting.

## Further considerations

### No need for caution around birth rates

NCC's 2020 population projections noted that according to historic experience, birth rates can decline in times of poor economic conditions, and therefore noted a risk of lower birth rates during the COVID-19 induced recession. However, improvement in the general economic outlook means that birth rates may not suffer from COVID-19, and may in fact experience a brief boom due to babies conceived during lockdown – although it is too early to see this trend in birth statistics.

### Sharp changes in projected growth rates

Nelson's projection features relatively sharp changes in the population growth rate, which are an artefact of transitions between forecast assumptions over time. This trend is due to the fact that Stats NZ project population in five-year periods, and cannot be overcome without the use of a single year model. Practically, the sharp changes should be interpreted as indicative of gradual changes over time. Population growth cannot be projected with perfect accuracy – therefore the projections should be interpreted as

indicative of the broad direction, magnitude and timing of growth, rather than a precise estimate of the population at a specific point in time.

## Conclusion

Population growth, particularly net migration, is highly sensitive to relative economic performance. New Zealand's economy has been far more resilient to COVID-19 than expected, with stronger performance than was envisaged in mid-2020. However, Nelson's economic performance relative to other regions has not substantially changed. Nelson sits in the middle of the pack with respect to regional growth in employment and earnings. International net migration to New Zealand is likely to remain weak for several years as the global economy recovers and movements start to return to normal.

Despite the change in outlook post-COVID-19, there is little reason to suggest that Nelson's population will experience substantially different growth to what has been projected in mid-2020. In our view, NCC's mid-2020 population projections remain valid.

## **Chris Pawson**

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**From:** Nick Brunsdon <nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 February 2021 3:26 p.m.  
**To:** Chris Pawson  
**Subject:** RE: Nelson Population projection  
**Attachments:** Infometrics memo.pdf

Hi Chris

Please see attached for the memo – give me a call if you have any questions or comments.

Cheers  
Nick

---

**From:** Chris Pawson <chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 February 2021 1:51 PM  
**To:** Nick Brunsdon <nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Nelson Population projection

Hi Nick,

I've been told we need it for a 4pm meeting with the Mayor. No pressure or anything.

How are things looking for that timeframe?

Cheers,

**Chris Pawson**  
Strategy and Environment Senior Analyst  
Nelson City Council / Te Kaunihera o Whakatū  
03 539 5552  
[www.nelson.govt.nz](http://www.nelson.govt.nz)



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**From:** Nick Brunsdon [<mailto:nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 February 2021 8:36 a.m.  
**To:** Chris Pawson <[chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Nelson Population projection

Great Chris – will be finished by later today.

Cheers  
Nick

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**From:** Chris Pawson <[chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 February 2021 1:58 PM

**To:** Nick Brunsdon <[nick.brunson@infometrics.co.nz](mailto:nick.brunson@infometrics.co.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: Nelson Population projection

Hi Nick,

A short memo from you sounds great.

Cheers,

**Chris Pawson**

Strategy and Environment Senior Analyst  
Nelson City Council / Te Kaunihera o Whakatū  
03 539 5552  
[www.nelson.govt.nz](http://www.nelson.govt.nz)



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**From:** Nick Brunsdon [<mailto:nick.brunson@infometrics.co.nz>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 February 2021 1:47 p.m.

**To:** Chris Pawson <[chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: Nelson Population projection

Hi Chris

I've had a bit of a think about this. I think my initial thoughts still stand – that the strength of the economy post-COVID doesn't really affect your population projections.

Would a 2-3 page paper/memo on the following points, with an overall conclusion be useful?

- Relative economic performance – comparison of Nelson's economic performance compared to the rest of New Zealand through COVID – looking at employment and Jobseeker support recipients, and reliance on international tourism
- Migration outlook – comparison of our post-COVID international net migration forecast with the Stats NZ scenarios. Discuss limitations on international migration flows in the near term – with data on flows of people through the border at present.
- Better economic performance means birth rates are unlikely be dented as first thought
- Nelson's attractiveness as a retirement/pre-retirement destination may be aided by greater uptake of working from home/remote practices

Cheers

Nick

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**From:** Chris Pawson <[chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 February 2021 11:09 AM

**To:** Nick Brunsdon <[nick.brunson@infometrics.co.nz](mailto:nick.brunson@infometrics.co.nz)>

**Subject:** Nelson Population projection

Hi Nick,

As discussed, here is a copy of my latest population projections report for you to comment on in the light of the economy doing better than expected.

Also, we'd be interested in any migration data you might have that shows the level of returning NZers to Nelson.

Cheers,

**Chris Pawson**

Strategy and Environment Senior Analyst  
Nelson City Council / Te Kaunihera o Whakatū  
03 539 5552  
[www.nelson.govt.nz](http://www.nelson.govt.nz)



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## **Chris Pawson**

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**From:** Nick Brunsdon <nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 June 2020 1:19 p.m.  
**To:** Chris Pawson  
**Subject:** RE: Review of post COVID19 population projection report  
**Attachments:** Infometrics projection review.pdf

Hi Chris

I managed to fit this work in earlier than expected. Please have a look at the draft review attached and let me know if you have feedback – what's useful, what's not, etc.

Overall, your projections and assessments beneath them are solid, I've just recommended a different scenario for births, reflecting the strong population growth in recent years which wasn't picked up in the Stats NZ 2013 base projections.

Feel free to give me a call if you'd like to discuss.

Cheers  
Nick

**CLICK** [Infometrics COVID-19 Economic Insights and Response page](#)

 <b>Infometrics</b> Economics put simply	<p><b>Nick Brunsdon</b> Senior Economist • Infometrics Limited</p> <p>Phone: 027 322 1686 PO Box 25-309   Wellington 6140 Level 20   Plimmer Towers   2 Gilmer Tce   Wellington 6011 <a href="http://www.infometrics.co.nz">www.infometrics.co.nz</a></p> <p><a href="#"></a> <a href="#"></a> <a href="#"></a></p>
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**From:** Chris Pawson <chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 June 2020 10:46 AM  
**To:** Nick Brunsdon <nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Review of post COVID19 population projection report

Thanks Nick.

**Chris Pawson**  
Strategy and Environment Senior Analyst  
Nelson City Council / Te Kaunihera o Whakatū  
03 539 5552  
[www.nelson.govt.nz](http://www.nelson.govt.nz)

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**From:** Nick Brunsdon [<mailto:nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 June 2020 8:30 a.m.  
**To:** Chris Pawson <[chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Review of post COVID19 population projection report

Hi Chris

Thanks for that – look forward to working with you.

I will be in touch with any questions as I get into it.

Cheers

Nick

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**From:** Chris Pawson <[chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 June 2020 5:05 PM  
**To:** Nick Brunsdon <[nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz](mailto:nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Review of post COVID19 population projection report

Hi Nick,

Thanks for getting back to me. I have the sign-off from powers that be here for this work. I have attached a more complete brief.

As long as your original estimate is still in the right ball-park please go ahead and undertake this work.

Regards,

**Chris Pawson**

Strategy and Environment Senior Analyst  
Nelson City Council / *Te Kaunihera o Whakatū*  
03 539 5552  
[www.nelson.govt.nz](http://www.nelson.govt.nz)

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**From:** Nick Brunsdon [<mailto:nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 June 2020 3:12 p.m.  
**To:** Chris Pawson <[chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Review of post COVID19 population projection report

Hi Chris

I would estimate [REDACTED] for this work. This would cover my time reviewing and producing a brief two page report with recommendations. I would draw upon our population projection model and post-COVID forecasts. I can deliver 1-2 weeks after receiving the go ahead from you.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Kind regards

Nick

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**From:** Chris Pawson <[chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 June 2020 4:18 PM  
**To:** Nick Brunsdon <[nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz](mailto:nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Review of post COVID19 population projection report

Hi Nick,

Thanks for getting back to me. I have attached the report we need reviewing. The main area of focus is the net migration side of things so that should be where you spend most of your time. We still need a brief look at what is in the report on births and deaths though.

At this stage I'm after a fee estimate say plus or minus 20% so I can get an exception to our procurement policy signed off. Once I have that I will come back to you with a proper brief. An indication of how long it will take you once we give the go-ahead would be useful as well.

Cheers,

**Chris Pawson**

Strategy and Environment Senior Analyst  
Nelson City Council / Te Kaunihera o Whakatū  
03 539 5552  
[www.nelson.govt.nz](http://www.nelson.govt.nz)

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**From:** Nick Brunsdon [<mailto:nick.brunsdon@infometrics.co.nz>]  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 June 2020 3:02 p.m.  
**To:** Chris Pawson <[chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Review of post COVID19 population projection report

Hi Chris

Thanks for your enquiry – it's been passed on to me as I developed our population projection model and have produced projections for a range of councils.

We would be happy to review your projections and will be able to do this within your timeframe.

Please send through your projection report and let me know if there are any particular areas of focus for the review (e.g. net migration).

I will then get back to you with a quote. Are you after a full proposal, or would an email quote suffice?

Kind regards  
Nick

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**Infometrics**  
Economics put simply

**Nick Brunsdon**  
Senior Economist • Infometrics Limited

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PO Box 25-309 | Wellington 6140  
Level 20 | Plimmer Towers | 2 Gilmer Tce | Wellington 6011  
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**From:** Chris Pawson <[replies@infometrics.co.nz](mailto:replies@infometrics.co.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 1:54 AM

**To:** Replies <[reply@infometrics.co.nz](mailto:reply@infometrics.co.nz)>

**Subject:** Review of post COVID19 population projection report

From: Chris Pawson <[chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:chris.pawson@ncc.govt.nz)>

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Company: Nelson City Council

Subject: Review of post COVID19 population projection report

Message:

Hi,

I'm after someone to do a review of a population projections report that we have prepared post COVID19 and give recommendations around what you think we should change. Are you guys able to do this work? We are under time pressure so keen to have it done in the next three to four weeks. Is this timeframe realistic? I can send you a copy of the report so you can tell us how much it will cost and how much time you will need.

Cheers,

Chris

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