### Camden Council

#### Notes - geography

### Census geography overview

Census data is available at a variety of different geographic levels such as State, Capital City, Local Government Area, Suburb and Postal Area. These areas are created by aggregating smaller units of geography together into a 'best fit'.

The boundaries available from the ABS rarely match actual 'communities', 'suburbs' or 'service catchments' needed for effective decision making, and even if they do, they are seldom available on the same geographic basis over time, making it very difficult to identify trends in population characteristics based on meaningful areas.

Standard output from the ABS is on the basis of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). This has applied since 2011.

For previous Censuses (2006 and earlier) the base building block was called a Census Collection District. Census Collection Districts aggregated to Local Government Areas.

Local Government Areas are available from the 2011 and later Census outputs. They are created by aggregating SA1s. However, these SA1s do not sum exactly to Local Government boundaries, making geographic breakdowns problematic, and time series even more difficult.

profile.id resolves all these issues to create a meaningful geography that can be analysed over a long time-period.

### Camden Council area geography

This profile provides Census data for the Camden Council area broken down into small areas based on customised suburbs/localities.

For the 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006 Census years these small areas are created by aggregating Census Collection Districts. For the 2011 and later Censuses they are created by aggregating Statistical Area Level 1 and other available geographic units.

Where ABS-supplied geographies do not fit exactly into a suburb or locality boundary, estimates are made in each Census year of the number of dwellings to be included. These estimates use satellite photography, dwelling counts, planning schemes, and street directories to determine what percentage of each SA1 or other area to include in the suburb.

This means that regardless of the Census year, and the changes in ABS output boundaries, the data presented in profile.id exactly matches the suburb/locality boundary. This provides the most accurate population information for suburbs and localities and a meaningful time series for the current geography.

**NOTE:** The geography in the community profile tables may not match the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) SA2, suburb area or postal area boundaries, which are based on aggregation of whole SA1s and are not comparable to previous Census years.

See [About the profile areas](about) for information on specific geographic areas.