

SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 2(3)

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EDITOR

This edition of your ANZRSAI Sustaining Regions and Newsletter provides an update on the 36th ANZRSAI Annual Conference at University of Wollongong from 4 to 7 December. The last date for Early Bird Registration for the ANZRSAI Annual Conference is 30 September 2012. Get your registration now. To register for the conference, please go to:

<https://www.conferenceonline.com/index.cfm?page=booking&object=conference&id=16916&categorykey=779B1408%2D6290%2D4B06%2DA06B%2D7D7916BD9304&clear=1>

Conference information is also available on our website www.anzrsai.org. The conference is to be held at University of Wollongong from 4 to 7 December 2012. Details of our keynote speakers are in this edition. Early indications are that this will be a well-attended and most interesting conference. We urge you to register yourself and to invite your friends. Standard membership is now only \$80.

The conference will include a workshop on our website. Council seeks a website which will attract anyone interested in regions, whether researchers, students, policy makers or practitioners to join ANZRSAI, to use the website, to find quality regional research, and to communicate with their colleagues. We need to know what features lead you to use (or drive you away from) a particular

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website; what are your favourite websites; what you would like to be able to do using our website, etc. We aim to have a website which makes life easy for you. You can tell us at anzrsai@anzrsai.org.

In place of a Contributed paper this Sustaining Regions includes notes and extended extracts from the recently released report of the remoteFOCUS project 'Fixing the Hole in Australia's Heartland'. This is an important review of the problems of creating workable policies for the 15% of Australians who live in remote Australia, a place which makes up 85% of our landmass. Those of us who huddle within 50 kilometres of the coast hold romantic, utilitarian and often erroneous perceptions of the vast heartland of Australia, and these perceptions drive the politics which deny appropriate governance to our fellow citizens who live there.

This Newsletter contains a note on the future of ANZRS AI and an outline of recent Council discussions. We welcome and appreciate your views.

Sustaining Regions, the Newsletter of ANZRS AI invites contributions on research, policy and practice relevant to urban and regional communities. These can be commentary, articles, book reviews, and descriptions of policy initiatives. Contributions must reveal the author; they will not be refereed, and will not enjoy the copyright protection of a refereed journal. Authors seeking refereeing and copyright protection should approach Australasian Journal of Regional Studies www.anzrsai.org.

SELECTED PAPERS

Fixing the hole in Australia's Heartland: How Government needs to work in remote Australia

Walker, BW, Porter DJ and Marsh I. 2012. Desert Knowledge Australia, Alice Springs.

www.desertknowledge.com.au/Our-Programs/remoteFOCUS

The remoteFOCUS project is an initiative facilitated by Desert Knowledge Australia with support from the Australian Government, Pilbara Development Commission, Royalties for Regions, MacDonnell Shire, and BHP Billiton. The page numbers are given for quotes from the project report.

The 85% of Australia's population who live in about 15% of Australia's landmass, in patches which are within 50 km of the coast, has redefined and currently operates Australia's political and economic institutions to serve the areas in which they live. Few among the majority have any intimate knowledge of the remote hole in the middle of Australia, and while the majority holds various views, ranging from romantic frontier to failed state, the majority see it as a place to dominate and tame.

"...Many Aboriginal Australians see remote Australia as Country, a place that nourishes and provides meaning and identity."9 The residents of remote Australia feel disconnected, not consulted, inequitably treated, poorly and inappropriately served by government, unable to hold government accountable and excluded from the Australian narrative.

Remote Australia is, well, remote. Remoteness is conducive to "...Unstructured and ephemeral attention" rather than "...level-headed policy-making."24 Predominantly both Aboriginal and non-

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Aboriginal settlements in remote Australia suffer from similar issues...relating to...the way government is structured to make decisions and carry them out.:24

“Australia’s view of itself has shrunk to the coastal fringe. More than 85% of our population lives within 50km of the coastline and our system of democracy and national economy has progressively been altered to serve the coastal areas and the large mass of people in urban Australia.:23

“Across most of this area, you won’t find significant hospitals, high schools, universities, banks, police stations, and thriving market opportunities. And yet there are more people resident in remote Australia than in Tasmania or Canberra. They are just hidden in the backyards of the States and Territory.

“Many Australians view remote Australia in terms of extremes: variously as a last frontier, a vast unsettled and isolated terrain, a place of Aboriginal crisis, the heart of the nation. But it is also seen as an economic wasteland, a place of market failure and extreme poverty (even a “failed state”), somewhere to drive when you retire and of course the quarry for the mining boom that is driving the economic performance of the nation. To some it has legitimacy in Australian nationhood only because of the heritage status of the pastoral industry and the major resource development projects that are scattered throughout the remote regions.” :23-24

“The discord is striking between these opinions and the thinking of many Aboriginal Australians who see remote Australia as Country, a place that nourishes and provides meaning and identity. One set of views is centred on a desire to dominate and tame it while the other lives in and adapts within it. This discord is part of the complex contest that needs to be addressed and resolved.

“The distorted ‘extremes’ view from non-remote Australia leads to a failure to appreciate the social, economic and ecological crisis facing remote Australia which has significant consequences for the nation as a whole.” :24

The report continues:

“What is clear from the remoteFOCUS work is that despite a uniformity of analysis of what needs to be done and recognition at the highest levels that current outcomes are problematic, the system of government appears unable to make the necessary systemic adjustments. On our analysis many areas of current systems and practices need to be addressed systemically.

- It is clear that innovative economic policy rather than a singular focus on improved subsidies, welfare and services must be at the heart of policy on Central Australia.
- Economic policy requires more from government than setting macro-economic conditions—it needs to become an active partner in business/livelihood with community and private sector and it needs to be prepared to be innovative—more of the same regional development will not work.
- Agglomeration, regional integration, and regional connectivity are keys to an innovative response in Central Australia.
- Government could stimulate capacity in Central Australia through micro-economic reform including adoption of more innovative regional and procurement policies.

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- The current arrangements comprising three tiers of government and a series of ad hoc regional arrangements overshadowed by localised law and order concerns, appear to be incapable of resolving both the priorities and the contests that need to take place around these arrangements.
- The structure and configuration of institutions across central Australia are, therefore, largely not fit for purpose.
- Failure to innovate is most marked in the public sector.
- For Central Australia, the national debate over rights and responsibilities of Aboriginal people and the general question of citizen rights and equity for all Australians has created service expectations that cannot be fiscally sustained in this region.”:87-88

“There are a number of inherent contradictions within the current policy mix impacting on Central Australia.

1. There is a lack of clarity of national purpose as to whether Aboriginal people can pursue cultural difference and whether as a result the nation is prepared to respect Aboriginal difference and allow a future for remote settlements that that difference reflects. At a more nuanced level what cultural difference is Australia prepared to accept, support and fund.
2. As a consequence we currently have an unworkable settlement strategy in Central Australia where the hub and spoke service model of the growth towns strategy and the abandonment of homelands by the Commonwealth set a default policy of population movement to large regional centres without regard to economic issues and being indifferent to the consequences for a range of other employment and human service outcomes that result from such mass mobility.
3. Central Australia has an inadequate economic base to support the infrastructure requirements and the recurrent effects of such a de facto depopulation strategy. Fiscal federalism allows the Territory government to apply revenue assessed by the Grants Commission against needs of remote communities to be allocated independently of those community needs.
4. The governance arrangements in Central Australia with elements of Commonwealth disengagement and a distant and largely over-stretched Territory government and grossly underfunded local governments means there is no effective or legitimate means to address concerns unless the Commonwealth invests significantly in regional renewal and alternative governance outcomes. This disengagement means that many of the elements of civic life normally present in a community are not evident in remote communities.
5. Targets for change have been elusive and, in hindsight, judged chronically inadequate and opportunistic, chasing new projects or hoping for mining to arrive or commodity prices to increase. The employment targets required will require more than reliance on markets if government is to sustain any improvement in human development indicators.

The response to these five concerns has been a managerial response that in ways unintended simply reproduces the problems.”:88

Citation: Walker BW, Porter DJ, and Marsh I. 2012 *Fixing the Hole in Australia's Heartland: How Government needs to work in remote Australia*, Desert Knowledge Australia, Alice Springs.

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Associated Reports:

Walker, BW, Edmunds, M and Marsh, I. 2012 *Loyalty for Regions: Governance Reform in the Pilbara*, report to the Pilbara Development Commission, Desert Knowledge Australia
ISBN: 978-0-9873958-0-1

Walker, BW, (Ed) Edmunds, M and Marsh, I. 2012 *The remoteFOCUS Compendium: The Challenge, Conversation, Commissioned Papers and Regional Studies of Remote Australia*, Desert Knowledge Australia. ISBN: 978-0-9873958-1-8
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or P: 08 8959 6000 E: info@desertknowledge.com.au

Book Review:

The handbook of local and regional development.

Andy Pike, Andrés Rodríguez-Pose and John Tomaney (eds.)

London and New York: Routledge 2011. 642 pp. £130.00. ISBN: 978-0-415-54831-1

Review by Michaela Trippel, Department of Human Geography, Lund University, Sweden
(From *Papers in Regional Science*, Vol 91:3 (August 2012), 695-696

The prospects for local and regional development are increasingly shaped by a set of partly interrelated trends and powerful forces: the globalization of financial, economic and information flows, growing inequalities between and within sub-national places; ongoing urbanization processes in many parts of the world; climate change; migration processes; demographic shifts; and the rise of the knowledge economy form new context conditions and provide major challenges to local and regional development. There is an urgent need for a more textured understanding of how these forces affect the evolution of cities and regions and for a critical reflection on the theories and ideologies that inform conceptualizations of the impact of these major changes as well as policy approaches to them.

The handbook under review here contributes significantly to enhancing our knowledge about these fundamentally important questions and is thus highly welcome. Its overall aim is to reconsider local and regional development in an international and multi-disciplinary context. The handbook seeks to: (i) offer a comprehensive and thoughtful review of established and emerging theories and empirical findings dealing with issues of local and regional development; (ii) cross traditional disciplinary boundaries and stimulate constructive dialogue between concepts of local and regional development in the Global North and development studies in the Global South; and (iii) provide critical reflections and discussions of the politics and policy of how local and regional development is understood and practised. In order to meet these aims, the editors of *The handbook of local and regional development* have carefully selected around 50 contributions from leading academic scholars within their particular field. The outcome of this ambitious project is an impressive, groundbreaking volume which raises a

number of intriguing perspectives of analysis and provides an up-to-date account of current conceptual and empirical research on local and regional development.

The handbook is organized into seven sections, the first of which deals with issues of local and regional development in the context of accelerating globalization processes. The three chapters brought together in this section provide insightful discussions of the literature about 'global regions', the nature and politics of territorial competition as well as a review of the directions of local and regional 'development studies' in the Global South. Section 2 is made up of four chapters attempting to unravel the foundations, values and principles of particular definitions and meanings of development regionally and locally. The focus is on regional disparities and measures of regional development informed by a capabilities perspective, the meaning of the notion of inclusive growth, sustainability as a new development narrative and approaches to regional development that move beyond the alleged competitiveness imperative. Section 3 contains 11 chapters offering an impressive account of the richness, vibrancy, diversity and explanatory power of theories of local and regional development. The approaches discussed in this part of the volume are manifold, including evolutionary perspectives, notions of culture and creativity, and conceptual views on the geography of innovation and knowledge links to mention just a few of the concepts and ideas under consideration. The next eight chapters of Section 4 are devoted to a critical appraisal of the role of the state and its transformation, new forms of governance, democratic problems related with emerging institutional forms established to regulate city competition, geographical political economies of power as well as challenges for and the changing nature of spatial planning and territorial development policy. Section 5 consists of 12 chapters which provide an illuminating discussion of a wide set of older and newer policy approaches aiming at facilitating local and regional development. Attention is drawn to the opportunities and problems related with policies designed to stimulate, for instance, endogenous and exogenous forms of development, innovation networks, the 'green economy', academic entrepreneurship, etc. Another set of contributions assembled in Section 5 looks at the relation between labour migration and (uneven) urban development, the nature of neoliberal urbanization in Europe as well as the gendering of migrant settlement experiences in relation to socio-spatial transformations in Southern European cities. Section 6 offers a truly global perspective, looking at approaches to local and regional development in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, North America and Europe. The five chapters brought together in this section amplify understanding of the interdependent relation of development in the Global North and Global South. Finally, the five chapters of Section 7 are all concerned with a critical discussion, albeit from different perspectives, of major issues and key questions about the future directions of local and regional development.

This handbook deserves little criticism. It provides the reader with a comprehensive understanding of the multitude of local and regional development perspectives based on, or cutting across, existing disciplines and academic specializations, and it sharpens our view of the problematic of development in different local and regional contexts. An introductory overview that presents very clearly the rationale, key aims and structure of the handbook, a guide to further reading for almost all chapters, and an outlook of future research and policy challenges make this handbook a key introduction and influential reference work for researchers, academics, and students from various disciplines such as geography, planning, urban studies, economics, sociology, gender studies, political science, social policy and development studies. At the same time this handbook has the potential to become a valuable source of inspiration for policy agents and practitioners.

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The Regional Australia Institute

Media Release 16 August 2012

The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) has appointed West Australian, Tim Shackleton to its Board. Shackleton brings a wealth of senior management experience in both the government and non-Government sectors to the RAI.

Since July 2011, Shackleton has worked as Director of Health Services consulting firm, Virtual Health. Prior to this he spent five years as Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (Western Operations).

Shackleton was also the Regional Director of the WA Country Health Service's Wheatbelt Region, In addition to spending six years as Regional Director and General Manager of State government Health services in the Pilbara-Gascoyne and Murchison regions of WA respectively.

“Tim currently sits on the Board for the Wheatbelt Development Commission in WA. We are delighted to have him join the RAI Board; he is an invaluable asset to the RAI, bringing with Him specialist experience, particularly in the WA health sector,” said Mal Peters, Institute Chair.

Mr Shackleton said he was thrilled to have been chosen to join the RAI as it has an essential role to play in supporting regional Australia through targeted research and policy development.

“I have a real passion for regional Australia having lived and worked in country WA for most of my life. I am delighted to be able to bring a West Australian perspective to the important work of the RAI,” he said.

[About the Regional Australia Institute](#)

The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) was born out of the Federal Government's 2010 commitments to Independent MPs from regional Australia. Using existing information and commissioning new research, RAI will reframe the issues and opportunities for growth and development in regional Australia.

The Regional Australia Institute is independent, apolitical and not-for-profit. It is governed by a Board of eminent Australians with a passion for regional Australia.

The RAI's first research project is underway already, a Stocktake of existing research encompassing all the vital statistics on regional Australia.

The Minister responsible for regional affairs, Simon Crean, officially launched the \$8m research institute in February, 2012.

Editor's note: This gives the RAI one board member west of the Great Dividing Range, a very welcome step. The hole in the land is not addressed. The stocktake of existing research is, as far as your Council knows, being undertaken without the benefit of access to the archive of research reported in the *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies*, *Sustaining Regions*, *Papers in Regional Science*, and *Regional Science Policy and Practice*.

**CURRENT RESEARCH
ABSTRACTS**

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159-181

Employment Volatility and the Great Moderation: Evidence from the Australian States and Territories

David Shepherd¹ and Robert Dixon²

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2. Department of Economics, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010

ABSTRACT: Macroeconomic policy discussion in Australia presumes that there was once and for all reduction in the volatility of aggregate output and employment in the late 80s or early-mid 90s and that all states and territories were party to this 'Great Moderation'. In this paper we examine Australian data on national and state & territory employment, focusing in particular on whether there have been common national and state & territory changes in the volatility of employment growth. We find that there was no change in volatility for SA, WA and the ACT while there was a change in volatility, associated with 'the great moderation' in the early-mid 1990s for NSW, VIC, QLD, TAS and the NT. The different experiences of the states and territories signals the need for more, and more evidence-led, discussion in Australia of the regional aspects of macroeconomic stabilisation policy.

182-205

The Establishment of Regional Development Australia Committees in Australia: Issues and Initiatives for the Future

Jeremy Buultjens¹, Kim Ambrosoli² and Brian Dollery³

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2. Southern Cross University, Lismore, NSW, 2480

3. Centre for Local Government, University of New England, Armidale NSW, and Visiting Foreign Professor, Faculty of Economics, Yokohama National University, Japan,

ABSTRACT: The Australian federal government's approach to regional development since the 2010 election has seen more emphasis placed on local empowerment and leadership. The government has indicated that the 55 Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees are expected to provide leadership and facilitate the process of local decision making. This expectation would require substantial changes in the operational scope, responsibilities and power of RDAs. It is proposed that successful leadership in regional development requires a collaborative approach. In order to provide effective collaborative leadership, RDAs will need to have a clear view of what they are required to do as well as position themselves to undertake their activities in a collaborative manner. This paper presents an overview of the challenges and issues confronting RDAs in October 2010 as perceived by RDA staff and committee members. It is apparent representatives believed that RDAs had struggled to come to terms with their role and consequently they had been unable to establish authority with government departments, other regional development organisations and the community. A lack of adequate funding had also prevented RDAs from undertaking many of their intended activities. These challenges need to be addressed in order for RDAs to provide effective leadership and meet government expectations.

206-231

An Integrated Model of sub-national Regional and Urban Development: Framework of Analysis applied to the City of Casey, Victoria, Australia

Ameeta Jain

School of Accounting, Economics and Finance, Deakin University, Burwood, Victoria, 3125

ABSTRACT: This paper aims to contribute to an understanding of the role of government policy in regional economic development of a peripheral urban region. This is attempted by using a framework of analysis based on the integrated model of sub-national regional and urban economic development, developed by the author in previous published research. This framework applied to a peripheral urban region of Melbourne, Australia, namely the City of Casey. The City of Casey was formed in 1994 and has been expanding on the strength of its population growth since. The paper examines the usefulness of current government policies and business association programs in Casey aimed at developing self-sustaining regional development. This is achieved by examining perceptions and evaluating extent of adoption of these policies by manufacturing and home-based businesses. This research found that current government policy and business association programs are not sufficient for the development of self-sustaining businesses in peripheral urban regions such as The City of Casey.

232-256

Running the Big Smoke: A critical analysis of the KPMG (2008) Approach to Local Government Reform in the Sydney Metropolitan Area

Brian Dollery¹, Fabio Fiorillo² and Therese Burton³

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2. Dipartimento di Economia, Università Politecnica delle Marche Italy.

3. School of Arts, University of New England, Armidale, NSW, 2351

ABSTRACT: Following a critique of the current local governance arrangements in the greater Sydney metropolitan area by Blakely and Hu (2007), an alternative approach to the status quo has been advocated in Governance Arrangements for Sydney's Local Government Authorities (KPMG, 2008). This approach is aimed at rescaling local governance in Sydney to achieve greater global competitiveness, secure better communities of interest, and ensure long-run financial sustainability. The analysis in this Report has formed the basis for policy proposals calling for inter alia a 'reconfiguration' of small local councils in the Sydney metropolitan area into larger units. This paper seeks to provide a critical evaluation of Governance Arrangements for Sydney's Local Government Authorities. It demonstrates that the empirical analysis conducted in this Report does not support the policy conclusions drawn by its authors for the amalgamation of small councils into larger municipalities. Moreover, the paper argues that the Report should have employed different arguments to those it invoked in support of the establishment of a regional authority for greater Sydney.

257-280

A study of Population Change via Clustering of Australian Regional Areas: An Optimisation Approach

Karim Mardaneh

The Business School, University of Ballarat, University Drive, Mount Helen, Victoria, 3353

ABSTRACT: Grouping regional towns and cities in Australia according to economic functions could improve understanding of the importance of economic factors in determining growth. Several researchers have used clustering techniques to examine the growth and characteristics of regional cities in Australia. The current study extends clustering

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methodologies by adopting an optimisation approach based on a clustering technique using the k-means algorithm to investigate the impact of socio-economic factors on population growth and decline in regional Australia. The analysis in the paper suggests that industry of employment, individual weekly income, age group and education level have an important impact on population change. These findings have policy implications for economic planning of regional areas in Australia.

REGIONS & PRACTICE

Mid North Knowledge Partnership

The Flinders University Rural Clinical School will lead the Mid North Knowledge Partnership as part of its mission to serve the rural and remote communities of South Australia.

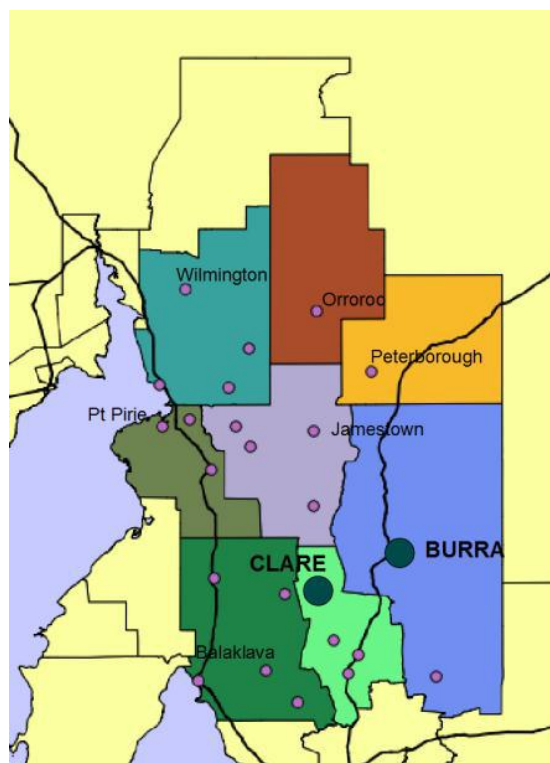
The purpose of the Mid North Knowledge Partnership is to facilitate closer connections between the university sector and government agencies, non-government organisations, businesses, and community groups in the Mid North of South Australia (see map).

The partnership aims to actively promote opportunities for research, knowledge transfer, student placements, international researcher and student exchange, and community based research and academic fellowships. Initial activities include:

- *Mid North Demographic Destinies*: research examining the future populations of settlements across the region;
- *Tourism Systems of Innovation in the Mid North*: research examining the capacity of regional businesses to adapt to changing market conditions;
- *International exchange agreement with the University of Applied Sciences, Krems (Austria)*: a researcher and student exchange program;

- *Mid North Knowledge Library*: a physical and electronic collection of publications and reports about the region;
- *Student Placement Database*: a database matching university courses which include practical training for students and Mid North organisations prepared to host students;
- *Mid North Directions*: a seminar series bringing leading academics and researchers to the region to present public seminars on a range of topics.

The Partnership commenced in 2012 with direct contributions from Flinders University, the University of South Australia, Yorke and Mid North Regional Development Australia (RDA), the Regional Council of Goyder, and the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council.



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www.facebook.com/MidNorthKnowledgePartnership

Regional Australia Update

RDA Barwon South West releases new plan to boost Great Ocean Road visitor numbers

RDA Barwon South West (Victoria) has released the Great Ocean Road Tourism Destination Management Plan in partnership with regional tourism stakeholders.

To download the Great Ocean Road Tourism Destination Management Plan visit this link.

http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/113902/Destination-Management-Plan-complete-document_R.pdf



Regional Infrastructure Fund guidelines released

The Australian Government has released guidelines for its Regional Infrastructure Fund that was created in June 2010 to invest the proceeds of the resources boom.

The Regional Infrastructure Fund is worth \$6 billion over 2010-11 to 2020-21 with \$5.6 billion of the fund drawing on the proceeds of the Minerals Resource Rent Tax (MRRT).

The broad objectives of the Regional Infrastructure Fund are to:

- promote development and job creation in mining communities, and in communities which support the mining sector

- provide a clear benefit to Australia's economic development, and to investment in Australia's resource or export capacity, and
- address potential capacity constraints arising from export production and resource projects.

There are three program streams under the Regional Infrastructure Fund:

- Stream 1-Implementation of commitments made in 2010 for funding from the Regional Infrastructure Fund-worth \$916 million
- Stream 2-Comprising two elements: Economic Infrastructure projects and Regional Infrastructure Planning projects-worth approximately \$4.5 billion
- Stream 3-Part of the Regional Development Australia Fund-worth approximately \$1billion, with \$573 million to be funded from the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

The guidelines for the Regional Infrastructure Fund will apply to both Stream 1 and Stream 2 funding. The guidelines contain detailed information on how projects are sourced for funding, how funding decisions are made and the conditions for funding.

For more information, including the Regional Infrastructure Fund guidelines, visit the Department of Infrastructure and Transport website.

ANZSOC Institute for Governance hosts seminar to ask if localism can work

The University of Canberra's Australia and New Zealand School of Governance (ANZSOG) hosted a seminar on 1 August 2012 to discuss the issue of localism and what it means for regional Australia.

Speakers included Murray-Darling Basin Authority Director of Stakeholder Engagement Megan Lancaster and a panel of academics

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with extensive international experience, including Professor Gerry Stoker from the University of Southampton, UK; Dr Deirdre Wilcock from Victoria University; and Professor Lawrence Pratchett from the University of Canberra to discuss what localism meant in practice and how it could help to generate solutions to problems being confronted in rural and regional Australia.

For more information including details on the panel members and the ANZSOG governance research program, visit the ANZSOG Institute for Governance website.

<http://www.governanceinstitute.edu.au/engagement-program/parliamentary-triangle-seminar-series>

International Economic Development Conference

RDA Far North Queensland and Torres Strait supported the International Economic Development Conference in Cairns, Queensland. The conference from 17-20 September 2012 was focused on harnessing opportunities across the Asia-Pacific region.

The event is the first joint conference between Economic Development Australia (EDA) and Economic Development Agencies New Zealand (EDANZ), and is also sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport.

For more information, including the full program and registration information, visit the EDA website.

<http://www.edaaustralia.com.au/nedc2012>

RDA Gippsland launches new arrivals project

RDA Gippsland (Victoria) has commissioned a new report that defines the economic and

social issues associated with the positive integration of new settlers into Gippsland.

The report *New Settlers to the Gippsland Region 2005-2011* identifies the new arrivals' origins, where in the region they have located to and why, the services they have sought to assist them to become established in their new communities and the barriers to access activities such as education, training and employment.

Gippsland has become home for many migrants and refugees, particularly from countries within Africa and Southeast Asia.

RDA Gippsland Chair Richard Elkington said the report seeks to assist new settlers in their quest to find stable employment and to maintain connection with their communities.

“This report will serve as a tool to identify opportunities for Government agencies and potentially businesses, to ensure that the best opportunities for employment and the most effective education and training programs are available to better support the new settlers, both now and into the future,” Mr Elkington said.

Recommendations from the report include the need to:

- better plan and support new settlers prior to arriving in Gippsland
- trial of business enterprises and opportunities for the newly arrived in areas of their skill or interest, and
- improve the availability and standardisation of the data relating to new settlers.

To download the New Settlers to the Gippsland Region 2005-2011 report, visit this link. <http://rda.gov.au/news/rda-gippsland-launches-new-arrivals-project>

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Local Government 2012 National General Assembly

About 850 representatives from local government met in Canberra for the 2012 National General Assembly (NGA) from 17-20 June 2012.

The theme for the 2012 NGA, National Voice, Local Choice - Infrastructure, Planning, Services, allowed delegates to look at improving the way in which local government serves its communities and the way in which it works with other levels of government.

Resolutions from the NGA Debate on Motions have been published on the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) website. The website will be continually updated over the next 12 months with details of the responses ALGA receives on each resolution.

For more information, including the transcripts of speeches and copies of speakers' presentations, visit the ALGA website.

Inaugural meeting of the COAG Regional Australia Standing Council

Commonwealth, State and Territory ministers responsible for regional development and the President of the Australian Local Government Association met in Alice Springs from 5-6 July 2012 for the inaugural meeting of the Regional Australia Standing Council.

The Council progressed its ambitious cooperative agenda to deliver real and lasting growth across regional Australia and agreed to:

- work together on an integrated infrastructure investment strategy
- develop of a framework for regional economic development
- the key determinants of long-term regional economic growth
- further develop a regional engagement framework, and

- cooperate on testing alternative approaches to providing local infrastructure.

For more information visit the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Regional Australia Standing Council page on the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport website.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

36th Annual Conference of the Australia and New Zealand Regional Science Association International

University of Wollongong, Australia, 4-7 December 2012

Connecting Regions: Research, Practice and Policy.

Early Bird Registration has been extended to **30th September, 2012.**

<http://www.uow.edu.au/commerce/research/conferences/2012anzrsaiconference/registration/index.html>

ANZRSAI is pleased to announce it has confirmed the following **keynote speakers**

Professor Mario Polèse *The Wealth and Poverty of Regions: Why Cities Matter*

Mario Polèse holds a Senior Canada Research Chair in Urban and Regional Studies at the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS) in Montréal. Mario is Senior Adjunct Professor in the School of Urban Planning at McGill University and Co-Director of the Laboratoire d'Analyse Spatiale et d'Économie Régionale (see www.inrs.ca/english/mario-polese). He is the author of *The Wealth and Poverty of Regions: Why Cities Matter*, published by University of Chicago Press in 2010.

Professor Graham Clarke *The Potential of Microsimulation in Regional Science*

Graham Clarke is Professor in the School of Geography at the University of Leeds, UK (www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/people/gclarke/cv.html). His research interests include GIS, urban services, retail and business geography, urban modelling and continuing professional education. Graham was Executive Director of the Regional Science Association International from 2004 to 2010, for which he received the Hirotada Kohno Award for Outstanding Service in 2011.

Dom Figliomeni *Port Growth and Regional Development*

Dom Figliomeni is Chief Executive Officer of the Port Kembla Port Corporation, a position he has held since 2005. In that role Dom has been responsible for developing and planning the port for the future. This work included the building of the new \$167million port facilities officially opened by the Premier of New South Wales in November 2008. Prior to this appointment Dom was Chief Executive Officer of the Bunbury Port Authority, a position he held for twelve years. Dom is a director of the Illawarra Business Chamber and the University of Wollongong.

Gary Bowditch and Pascal Perez *SMART Infrastructure*

Garry Bowditch is inaugural CEO of the University of Wollongong's SMART Infrastructure Facility. He is an Expert Panel Member of the Infrastructure Transitions Research Consortia at Oxford University, Board Member of the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network, a Director of the Smart Services Cooperative Research Centre, Transport Specialist on the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan Advisory Group, and member of the Australia Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee to advise on regional trade and investment initiatives.

Professor Pascal Perez is Professor of Modelling and Simulation in the SMART Infrastructure Facility of the University of Wollongong. SMART is the national centre for infrastructure solutions. Pascal is a world leader in participatory modelling of complex systems. Before joining the University of Wollongong, he was a Team Leader at CSIRO and an Associate Professor at the Australian National University. Professor Pascal Perez has 20 years of experience working in South East Asia, Western Africa, Pacific Island Countries and Australia.

David Morgan Williams *Initiating Leadership Thinking to Connect Regional Centres*

Dr David Morgan Williams is Director of WILLIAMS DEANE a leadership development consultancy, having spent the majority of his working career in the human resources and the recruitment industry. He has held, and continues to hold, numerous leadership roles in regional development and community engagement. David holds a Doctor of Business Administration, is a Fellow of the University of Wollongong and his research interests lay in the field of leader selection and development.

Nieves Murray Title to be confirmed

Nieves Murray is the Chief Executive of IRT, one of Australia's largest community based seniors lifestyle and care providers. IRT began in the Illawarra as a truly community based, non-denominational, seniors lifestyle and care provider and for over 40 years has maintained this foundation. Nieves has worked in aged care since 1985. Before joining IRT in 1992 she held positions in health and local government. She was appointed to the role of Chief Executive in October 2006 after a two-year break from IRT working in the commercial sector.

ABOUT ANZRS AI

ANZRS AI Structure and Policy

Selections from a discussion paper on the future of ANZRS AI, and the Constitution..

ANZRS AI has a written constitution, “the Rules of the Regional Science Association International, Australia and New Zealand Section Inc. (ANZRS AI Inc.), which were drafted in 2003 in accordance with Section 11 of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984.

ANZRS AI also prepared a Policy Document adopted in 2003. This records the Association’s Mission Statement as follows: “To be widely recognised throughout Australia and New Zealand as an authoritative source of information on and analysis of regional, economic and social issues, policies, and practice.” This is accompanied by a statement of ten goals:

1. To disseminate knowledge relevant to regional issues and process.
2. To encourage research and analysis in fields relevant to regional policy and process.
3. To provide forums for the discussion of research, planning and process.
4. To facilitate the professional development of those involved in regional research and process.
5. To operate an efficient organisation (ANZRS AI Inc.) meeting the needs of its members.
6. To encourage (as members) all those working in regional economic and social research, policy planning process.
7. To facilitate the linkages between regional, economic and social theories, analysis, and process.
8. To encourage members to participate in discussions of regional, economic and social policy and process.
9. To develop policies in liaison with relevant agencies with respect to regional analysis and process.

10. To raise community awareness of regional, economic and social policy and practice.

The Policy Document states that the Association views its annual conference as its most important activity. It also sets out the rules for honours and awards, covering

- Honorary Life Membership;
- Distinguished Service Award;
- The John Dickinson Memorial Award;
- The Sustaining Regions Award;
- Academic Thesis Awards; and
- Paper of the Conference Award.

Guidelines for Honorary Life Membership

The Council of the Australian and New Zealand Regional Science Association Inc. may award Honorary Life Membership to one of its members. The following guidelines are proposed:

1. Any member(s) of the Association may propose any other member for Honorary Life Membership and any nomination should be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary stating the grounds on which it is made.
2. Candidates for Honorary Life Membership shall have served the Association with distinction in its administration AND through a substantial contribution to either or both REGIONAL ANALYSIS and the PRACTICE OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.
3. No current Council Member of the Association shall be eligible for Honorary Life Membership.
4. Nominations placed before Council by the Honorary Secretary will be approved where they receive at least two-thirds of the votes of Council Members present at the meeting. Where approved, Honorary Life Membership shall be conferred in a suitable manner at the next Annual Conference of the Association.

SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 2(3)

5. These guidelines should be published periodically in the Association's Newsletter.

Guidelines for Distinguished Service Award

The Council of the ANZRSAI Inc. may grant a Distinguished Service Award to one of its members according to the following guidelines:

1. Any member(s) of the Association may propose any other person, whether member of the Association or not, for the Distinguished Service Award. Such proposals should be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary stating the grounds on which it is made.
2. Candidates for the Distinguished Service Award shall have served the fields of Regional Science or Regional Development Practice with distinction through: EITHER
 - (a) its administration, OR
 - (b) through a substantial contribution to regional analysis, regional policy formulation, or the practice of regional development.
3. No current Council Member of the Association shall be eligible for the Distinguished Service Award.
4. Nominations placed before Council by the Honorary Secretary will be approved where they receive at least two-thirds of the votes of all Council Members, whether present at the meeting or not. All nominations made subsequent to the Association's previous Annual Conference shall be considered together at the last Council meeting before the following Annual Conference. Where approved, the Distinguished Service Award shall be conferred in a suitable manner at the next Annual Conference.
5. These guidelines should be published periodically in the Association's Newsletter.

ANZRSAI Council 2012

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