



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

State of Regional Australia 2015

Progress in Australian Regions



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Foreword

State of Regional Australia



An understanding of a nation's economic and social direction and wellbeing is important for future investment and service provision planning. Australia has diverse regions with differing challenges. Each region has its own opportunities and challenges. Regional progress cannot be measured by a single dimension alone. There are many possible combinations of demography, wealth, income, industry structure, social issues and infrastructure availability which influence a region's economic performance, access and liveability.

A region may be doing well on some indicators while lagging on others. An evidence based understanding of a region's performance should underpin community development initiatives, policy settings and investment strategies which can enable a region to prosper and harness the opportunities associated with its own unique advantages.

Progress in Australian Regions: State of Regional Australia 2015 uses data from its companion publication *Progress in Australian Regions: Yearbook 2014* to enable the key direction of the variation in regions to be better understood and utilised in public policy formation. The report also importantly includes a number of case studies to demonstrate the different aspects of this variation and how they have changed over time. The case studies show that areas which at first glance may appear to be quite similar on certain indicators can actually have quite variable outcomes.

Not every region has been selected for a case study. However, by providing examples of the types of regional analyses which can be undertaken, this publication provides a framework through which to undertake similar analyses of regions of particular interest.

I am confident that this publication will prove a valuable national resource for regional policy makers and community leaders.

Mike Mrdak

Secretary

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

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