statistics for informed
decision making

Regional Statistics
for Local Government

Population

OUTBACK 11%

CITIES 69%

INNER REGIONS 20%

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Overview

- Why ABS engages Local Government

- Regional data gaps – what are they and what do we do about them?

  – (a few examples only)

- How to address regional data gaps

  – what are our roles?

  – what resources have we got?

Overview

- **Why ABS engages Local Government**

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Why ABS engage Local Govt

- An important *data provider* (to ABS)
- Has additional local administrative data and runs surveys
- Major users of regional data
- Local intelligence and local community networks – a help to Census collection; and local validation of small area data

Overview

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  - **(a few examples only)**
- How to address regional data gaps
  - what are our roles?
  - what resources have we got?

Need for "core" regional data

- Recurring themes:-
  - Population size and migration
  - Regional economy and labour market
  - Land use, services and infrastructure
  - Environment (water, energy, waste)
  - Locational disadvantage
- Profiling communities using 'indicators'

Regional economies

What we know

- Some labour market characteristics
- Counts of businesses
- Personal income / Household income
- Commuter patterns from Census data

We know less about…

- Value of production (apart from Agriculture)
- Business dependencies and markets (including prices)
- Business performance
- Personal or household wealth

LG Industry data

- Need for LG consistency in methods and processes

- Need for central data management *by* LG and *for* LG

- Need a plan that identifies and manages the many players – *Grants Commissions; Fed Govt; COAG; ACELG; ABS; ALGA and State Associations; commercial providers.*

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Local impacts of national policy

Federal government policies assessing local impacts, for example:

- Murray-Darling Basin Plan

- Sustainable population policy

- Urban planning – major cities policy

- Infrastructure investment decisions

- National health policies

- Mining social impacts (FIFO, DIDO)

Local Government data uses

- LG performance measurement
- Community profiles / indicators
- Monitor local impacts of policy
- Analyse community disadvantage
- LG Industry data
- Infrastructure supply and demand

We aim to…

- *understand regional data needs* across all levels of government and communities
- deliver improved *access to regional data*
- develop better *core regional data sets*

……….. so as to support evidence based regional planning and decision making

ABS processes

- Consultation on National Statistics Service
- Essential Statistics for Australia
- Census 2016 content
- Client engagement

Other processes ????

- New Policy Proposals – federal government
- Government grant processes
- Academic research grants
- State government funding
- Local government funding
- Collaborative projects

Spare slides follow

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LG Performance Measurement

- Demands by Australian and State Govt's for LG performance data – review all of these?

- LG performance indicators – different to community indicators

- Tracking progress against RDA plans, strategic plans, urban plans, community plans, etc.

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Data sources

- Local Government administrative data
- State and federal government administrative data
- ABS *(National regional profile, Census)*
- Commissioned research by government
- Commercial data providers
- Academic and not-for-profit research

Population

What we know for regions

- Annual population size by age and sex
- Inter-census moves (every five years)

We know less about . .

- Population turnover annually
- Reasons for moves
- Regional population projections
- Regional distribution of new arrivals to Australia