

Contents

FOREWORD	
Foreword	2
Northern Australia White Paper	2
COMMENTARY	
From the Cockatoo Network	6
Industry Growth Centres	7
McKinsey's take on globalization	7
Mentoring startups outside the capital cities	7
Commission of Audit and clusters	8
From Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation	9
From Centre for Housing Urban & Regional Planning	9
From The Economist	9
From The Conversation	10
Resources to tourism is a big leap	10
Regional Australia and refugee policy	10
Perth as a future model of urban planning	10
Regional Broadband may not live up to expectations	10
Regions and the sharing economy	10
From Gippyagchat: Waste to power	11
REGIONAL POLICY and PRACTICE	
Best practice in fostering entrepreneurship	11
National Stronger Regions Fund	12
Executive change at Regional Australia Institute	12
PASCAL International Observatory	13
The Future Tax Discussion and the Intergeneration Report in Australia	13
Regional Development in the Border Regions of Ireland	16
CONFERENCES and STUDY OPPORTUNITIES	18
New Postgraduate study opportunity – Regional Innovation	18
Best Doctoral Dissertation: Regional Science Association International	18
ASEF Summer University-Sustainable Urbanisation in Heritage Cities	19
World Bank annual conference on Land and Poverty	20
CURRENT RESEARCH (Abstracts)	
Regional Science Policy and Practice 7(2) June 2015	21
Rural poverty, health and food access	21
Australia's derivative economy and regional implications	21
Energy efficiency in Japanese regional economies	21
Journal of Regional Science 55(3) June 2015	22
The SLX model	22
State merit-based financial aid and college attainment	22
Integration of immigrants, bridging social capital, ethnicity and locality	22
House price impacts of neighbourhood segregation	23
Residential sorting and environmental externalities	23
Leapfrogging from residential choice with endogenous green space	23
ABOUT ANZRSI	
ANZRSI Annual Conference 2015	24
ANZRSI Council Notes	24
ANZRSI Council 2015	25

Foreword

The 2015 Annual Conference of ANZRSI will be held at University of Technology Sydney from 1 to 4 December 2015, with a theme of ***Global Cities and Global Regions: Sustainable Futures?*** BITRE has again agreed to be the lead sponsor of this conference. The Call for Papers is in preparation and will be issued shortly via the website. Get your abstracts prepared and ready to submit.

Among the keynote speakers invited is and Rob Greenwood Executive Director, Public Engagement and The Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.

After almost a decade of loyal and energetic service to ANZRSI our Executive Officer, Hazel Jones will be relinquishing her post in order to concentrate on her PhD studies. Paul Collits, in his address to the 2014 Annual General Meeting, commended "...Hazel and Greg Jones for their continuing commitment to the Association and their sure footed management of the sometimes complex issues they face, as always with professionalism and good cheer in the face of the frustration of dealing with time-poor and widely dispersed Councilors. It takes special skills successfully to manage open, distributed networks and our Council is particularly open and distributed!" Every member of ANZRSI has been assisted in some way by the efforts of Hazel. Greg will continue as Treasurer. Surely, all of us "...wish Hazel and Greg all good wishes for their new lives in Toowoomba."

In this edition Sustaining Regions has added a section of Commentary. Commentary will include, or give references to, current material which may be relevant to regional practice, science and research.

The Cockatoo Network and Sustaining Regions will share articles. The Cockatoo Network includes consultants in many fields, with particular interests in clusters and regional development, and publishes a Friday Brief and regular reports on key federal programs, project opportunities, details of collaborative partners, quality studies on innovation, investment attraction, clusters, networks etc. We look forward to continuing to share material with The Cockatoo, thus enriching our content.

Northern Australia White Paper

Andrew Campbell, Director of the Research Institute for Environment and Livelihoods at Charles Darwin University has written a thoughtful review in The Conversation. The link is

http://theconversation.com/is-the-white-paper-a-game-changer-for-northern-australia-43458?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest+from+The+Conversation+for+June+19+2015+-+2985&utm_content=Latest+from+The+Conversation+for+June+19+2015+-+2985+CID_7372d5c0ad254ef81793f071ea2775ea&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=Is%20the%20white%20paper%20a%20game-changer%20for%20northern%20Australia

Editor's note. The Northern Australia White Paper puts a necessary focus on economic reform and development. It promises sustained commitments to the governance of its plan. A critical concern will be whether governments can balance the needs of the northern Australia communities with their commendable efforts to accelerate economic development. The following extracts from the White Paper illustrate the economic focus. (Editor)

“Governments want, by 2035, northern Australia to be meeting its full potential, to benefit people living there as well as those around the country. To achieve this, governments have committed to a series of actions in the coming two decades, which are presented in this White Paper. These actions will lay the right foundations for long term growth by delivering better infrastructure, less red tape and more services in the north.

“This plan will act as both a guide to implementing the White Paper’s actions, and an information source for business and the community. It sets out which actions will be implemented, by when and by whom. This will support businesses in making decisions to invest and re-invest in the north. It will also support governments to work together to implement the actions needed to bring the White Paper plan to fruition. It provides a framework for reporting progress within a coordinated framework and is a key part of the Government’s commitment to developing the north.” (White Paper: 122)

Some more detail from the introductory chapter follows.

From Page 5: “To unlock the north’s full potential, the Commonwealth Government will address challenges to development by:

- making it easier to use natural assets, in close consultation with, and the support of, Indigenous communities
- providing a more welcoming investment environment
- investing in infrastructure to lower business and household costs
- reducing barriers to employing people
- improving governance.

“These themes are explored throughout this White Paper. The actions needed to develop northern Australia will be rolled out over the next two, five, 10 and 20 years. These actions reflect community views, expressed through the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia’s report: “Pivot North — Inquiry into the Development of Northern Australia” (Pivot North) and submissions to the Government’s Green Paper on Developing Northern Australia (the Green Paper).

“The Commonwealth Government supports the efforts of northern jurisdictions to accelerate pastoral lease reforms, making it easier for pastoral owners to diversify their businesses.

“The Government will support their work with willing communities and jurisdictions to pilot land reform projects, targeting practical ‘next steps’ for projects that demonstrate the benefits of reform for Indigenous and non-Indigenous investors.” (White paper: 5)

From Page 6: “To provide greater certainty and opportunity for Indigenous Australians and potential investors, the Government will improve capabilities of native title bodies so that they can more efficiently negotiate with business. Land surveys will be completed for northern communities to provide the basic building blocks for secure tenure. More township leases will be rolled out in the Northern Territory to provide more certainty for Indigenous and non-Indigenous investors and more economic opportunities for Indigenous communities.

“The Government will explore mechanisms to support long term leasehold arrangements for exclusive native title.

SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAL, 5(2)

“These actions will drive more economic activity on Indigenous and pastoral land and ensure that Indigenous and native title land can be an economic asset as well as a cultural and spiritual one.”

...

“assessments will identify available water that jurisdictions should quickly move to secure through offering water rights.

“A new National Water Infrastructure Development Fund will be established with a simple mandate: to accelerate investment in water infrastructure. ...A condition of the Government contributing to northern water infrastructure is that investors and farmers will have access to secure water rights.” P6

From Page 7: “Working with the Northern Territory Government, the Commonwealth Government will establish a ‘single point of entry’ for investors in major projects to help them through all regulatory hurdles. This will provide an important mechanism for feeding back information to governments on unnecessary regulation that is hampering business.” ...

“For example, Indonesian investment in northern cattle exporting facilities could smooth access to the Indonesian markets for all Australian cattle producers. The Foreign Investment Review Board will continue to ensure that investments are in the national interest, particularly Australia’s national security interests.

“To bring together international investors and promote secure investment in northern Australia, the Government will host a major northern investment forum in late 2015.” ...

“A new \$75 million Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Developing Northern Australia located in the north will provide necessary research and development (R&D), utilising the expertise and experience of northern researchers and business. This CRC will initially focus on agriculture, food and tropical medicine.

“Agriculture will be protected through a commitment to strengthen biosecurity in the north, including a \$12.4 million boost to Indigenous Ranger groups. Human disease threats will be tackled with a \$15.3 million Tropical Health Strategy.” (White Paper : 7)

From Page 8 “Faster and easier online [visa] applications for China and India...”

“Commonwealth Government is providing a new \$5 billion Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility to provide concessional loans for the construction of major infrastructure such as ports, roads, rail, pipelines, and electricity and water supply. ...

“Under a new \$600 million northern Australia roads package, funding will be considered for priority projects on the Great Northern Highway, Arnhem Highway, Flinders Highway, Barkly Highway, Hann Highway, the Outback Way and the Tanami Road.

“Governments tend to be poorer managers than the private sector of the complex networks needed to get the most value from infrastructure. Individual jurisdictions face reduced incentives to prioritise projects where benefits spill across borders. Informed by the latest logistics technology, a \$100 million beef roads fund will improve cattle supply chains in the north. Remote airstrips will also be upgraded and a new

business stakeholder group will assist the Government develop a plan for improving air and surface transport connections in the north.”

” Cost benefit analysis is an important tool for governments to evaluate projects and determine spending priorities — so this White Paper is funding such a study for a Mount Isa to Tennant Creek railway.”
(White Paper: 8)

From Page 9 “Building on Infrastructure Australia’s northern Australia audit, a new northern Australia infrastructure projects pipeline will help guide investors about the infrastructure plans of northern jurisdictions. Investors will be welcome to bring forward bids if they can build infrastructure projects better or cheaper. Projects wanting funding from the Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility will benefit from being on the pipeline.”...

“To boost opportunities for Indigenous workers and businesses, the Commonwealth Government will require Indigenous procurement targets for all road projects funded through this White Paper to drive Indigenous employment and supplier use.”

“Reflecting its diverse and sometimes harsh environment, the north has many businesses that require flexible employment conditions; effectively shutting down or cutting back during the wet season, contrasted with extended hours in the dry season. ...”

“A more flexible labour market system in the north, and across Australia, will allow businesses to bargain over wages and conditions specific to their business needs, as well as encourage increased investment, more jobs and income growth. That is why the Government has asked the Productivity Commission to examine the workplace relations framework and identify improvements that can be made to better suit workers and businesses.”

“The Northern Territory Government, in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, is working to streamline recognition of occupational licences given by jurisdictions. This will enable a seamless transition for workers moving to the Northern Territory and expands job opportunities for workers across the country.” White paper: 9

From Page 10 “...the Government will:

- continue to pursue Designated Area Migration Agreements (DAMAs) to support the workforce strategies and labour markets of northern jurisdictions, including in the Northern Territory and the Pilbara
- expand the Working Holiday Maker Visa Programme by increasing the amount of time visa holders can work in high demand areas
- expand and streamline the Seasonal Worker Programme to support seasonal industries, including in agriculture, tourism and hospitality
- enhance links with the important and increasingly vulnerable Pacific microstates with a new worker pilot visa for 250 citizens.” White Paper: 10

The White Paper makes proposals for improved governance.

From Page 10: “The vision for northern Australia in 2035 includes stronger governance arrangements. We do not want to look back in 20 years and regret missed opportunities.

“To achieve our vision, the Commonwealth Government has made substantial policy and fiscal commitments and will be held accountable for them (see the Implementation Plan on page 122). The Northern Australia Strategic Partnership — a biannual gathering of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and First Ministers of northern jurisdictions — will continue to ensure these commitments are kept. The Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia will also have a continuing role aimed at ensuring ongoing bipartisan support.

“The Office of Northern Australia (ONA) will be shifted to the north and report to the Deputy Prime Minister. It will coordinate implementation of this White Paper across Commonwealth agencies and with northern jurisdictions — with the Deputy Prime Minister to give an annual statement to Parliament on progress. Northern jurisdictions are encouraged to participate in ONA, including through providing staff and secondment opportunities.

“Governments have been asked to regulate less and facilitate business more. Governments have committed to trialling and testing policies, rather than just relying on the lessons of the south. Businesses bring with them high standards of accountability and management — more private investment should therefore improve governance in the north.” White Paper:10

From Page 21: “Native title should not be seen as a barrier to development, but essential to it. However, the costs associated with unduly long native title negotiations can be an impediment for some developments. Empowering native title groups to use their land rights in the wider economy is fundamental to developing the north and closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The growing recognition and acceptance of Indigenous interests in land as part of our legal, social and business landscape means that business and governments are increasingly engaged with Indigenous Australians through innovative land developments. Businesses with experience working in the north know that early effective engagement with Indigenous communities is essential. Legislative frameworks for Indigenous interests in land have supported thousands of successful developments across the north.

“Nevertheless, some stakeholders observe that existing native title frameworks are still too complex or too time consuming. ...”. White Paper: 21.

Australian Government. 2015. *Our North, Our Future: White paper on developing Northern Australia*, © Commonwealth of Australia 2015

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Commentary:

From the Cockatoo

Our thanks go to The Cockatoo Network for extending this courtesy to ANZRSAL. In this issue we include material from several recent issues of the Cockatoo.

SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSI, 5(2)

Industry Growth Centres

Further evidence that the Industry Growth Centres (\$88 million) is getting traction with the announcement the chairs of three Growth Centres:

- Mr. Andrew Stevens, Advanced Manufacturing
- Ms. Elizabeth Lewis-Gray, Mining Equipt, Technology & Services
- Mr. Peter Schutz, Food and Agribusiness

The Committee's independent members are John Grill AO (Chair), Ms Catherine Livingstone AO, Dr Andrew Liveris AO, and Ms Carolyn Hewson AO (ex-wife of John).

Interesting to note the four AOs there, plus the merger of FIAL (the food cluster) into the Food and Agribusiness Growth Centre.

McKinsey's take on globalisation

The latest McKinsey has a good article urging policymakers and companies to harness the power of shifting global flows. It offers four suggestions.

1. Nurture global ecosystems - Digital platforms enable companies to expand rapidly to customers far beyond home markets, while nurturing new ecosystems that span borders and connect clusters of suppliers, distributors, and after-sales services.
2. Locate in the best hubs - Many countries and cities have established themselves as hubs for specific types of flows. Locating within these vibrant centers can buttress a competitive advantage. Amsterdam, for instance, has some of the world's fastest and cheapest broadband connections. Also Eindhoven's Brainport boasts a concentration of expertise for broadband deployment, applications, and other skills.
3. Be ready for new competitors and challenges to business models – digitization will put tremendous pressure on business models. Internet-enabled lower barriers to entry are creating new twists in competition: companies that initially disrupted entire industries with first-stage digital technologies are now being disrupted themselves. Web-based travel companies now face tough growing competition from a new digital business model represented by app- and web-based Airbnb. The peer-to-peer hospitality site now offers rooms in more than 34,000 cities worldwide. Airbnb enables customers to research, reserve, pay for, and review their lodgings, bypassing traditional digital travel sites.
4. Create new businesses that combine and transform global flows - in the new era of globalization, pressure to create new business models and redefine the borders of companies and markets will increase because digital technologies make it possible to transform and recombine flows. (Above ex Cockatoo Feb 2015)

Mentoring startups outside the capital cities in India: from Cockatoo 10 April 2015

‘Jagat Shah, a very active Cockatoo member in India, is undertaking a 9,400 km road journey starting from Ahmedabad from 3 May 2015. He will cover 18 states and 27 cities – go to

www.mentoronroad.com

His journey is to guide, mentor and counsel rural enterprises, start-ups and SMEs. There will be a local mentor with him in each city - Ahmedabad, Surat, Nashik, Pune, Belgaum, Panaji, Mangaluru, Kochi, Madurai, Coimbatore, Mysore, Vijayawada, Vizag, Raipur, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Jamshedpur, Patna, Varanasi, Kanpur, Dehradun, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Delhi, Jaipur, Indore, Ahmedabad. For daily news on his, go to his Facebook page : www.facebook.com/mentoronroad ’

Too few regional development initiatives address the effect of isolation and remoteness on business start-ups. (Editor)

Commission of Audit’s cluster critique - response from Berlin

We (Cockatoo) recently ran an item about the negativity of the Commission of Audit (Australia) towards clusters, including the claim that researchers found that access to relevant skills and capital and a competitive business environment were far more important than government intervention in the success of clusters, and that clusters created deliberately by government rarely become independent of government funding.

A Paris-based Cockatoo is working in Europe with one of the researchers quoted in the Audit report. Her name is Dr. Brigitte Preissl, Head of Knowledge Transfer in Economics at ZBW Leibniz Information Centre for Economics, Berlin. Her reply is as follows (**our emphasis in bold**).

“The citation in the document you have sent is odd, as **we never say that “clusters created deliberately by government rarely become independent of government funding.” Neither have we observed any such phenomenon.**

At the time of our research the governments of Germany and Italy were keen on supporting clusters, but had not moved beyond regional support of industry agglomerations on the one hand, and technology policy on the other.

Our analysis of innovation clusters revealed that **clustering with the scope of generating an innovative product or process differs from the physical agglomeration** (or clustering) of companies along manufacturing /service value chains. As in innovation, **the main resource needed is knowledge, and the process of generating and exchanging knowledge can to a large part be organised in virtual networks**. Innovation clusters do not necessarily have to be concentrated geographically.

However, any cooperation in innovation clusters requires that the **partners have met and worked together on the same premises for a while to generate confidence in each other’s competencies and to achieve the trust needed to work together on sensitive confidential tasks**. These periods of physical closeness also creates a basis for the exchange of tacit knowledge and enhances the absorption capacity in each partner for the knowledge provided by the other in later phases of the project.

Policy for innovation clusters should therefore:

(1) make sure that the knowledge base for technical (and organizational) innovation is provided through research facilities and education.

SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 5(2)

(2) make sure that communication infrastructures are present for the exchange of large amounts of data, and

(3) facilitate the identification of relevant partners (e.g. by organising events where potential innovation partners can meet and learn about the facilities and competencies available in a given innovation system) beyond fairs and exhibitions. The latter is of particular importance for SMEs and market entrants.

The main feature of cluster policy as against R&D or technology policy is that it addresses the systemic aspect of innovation rather than the individual actors.”

(Valuable advice, especially that about the importance of confidence and trust – Cockatoo Editor)

From Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

The économusée movement of local artisans around the world provides a case of individual or groups of local artisans building local opportunity.

For more see <http://economusees.com/en/> and <http://thechronicleherald.ca/business/1292320-local-artisans-meet-tourist-networks>

From Centre for Housing Urban and Regional Planning (CHURP)

From Andrew Beer in the May 2015 Newsletter of CHURP

“There are ... indications that the Australian Government is rethinking its broader fiscal strategy, resulting in less hardship for many of the most vulnerable within Australian society. As several media commentators have noted, Australia needs further economic policy reform if it is to ensure its prosperity into the future. It is important such changes do not come at the expense of greater inequality. That is inequality both at the individual level and at the regional level. In the UK growing attention is being paid to spatial inequality, with increasing calls to ‘rebalance’ the national economy in order to both generate equal opportunities and take full advantage of the growth potential of everyone within society. Such sentiments are equally applicable to Australia, where one form of regional imbalance – the rapid, but very shallow, development of remote mining regions – may be replaced by other forms of regional inequality, including a further concentration of wealth in our inner cities and in our more prosperous regions.”

Several current and past members of ANZRSAI have participated in recent work at CHURP as the following reference shows.

Beer, A., Tually, S., Kroehn, M., Martin, J., Gerritsen, R., Taylor, M., Graymore, M. and Law, J. (2015) Climate Change and the Future of Australia’s Country Towns, in Palutikoff, J., Barnett, J., Boulter, S. and Rissik, D. (eds), *Applied Studies in Climate Change Adaptation*, Springer.

CHURP <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/churp/news/>

From the Economist

The Economist (May 30th-June 5th 2015) carries a Leader (p.14) and an article (p.58-59) on urban policy and shrinking cities. While some cities will need to accommodate many more people seeking opportunity

and better services, many cities will shrink as people migrate and birth rates decline. Policies for growing cities abound; policies for shrinking cities are thin and sometimes amount to a futile attempt to divert the tide. "Keeping [cities] healthy as they shrink is..." a challenge for the future. Adaptation often requires demolition of out of date buildings, both factories and residences, redevelopment of parks and landscape, and improvement of services for the remaining possibly ageing population.

Shrinking cities are emerging in Asia, Eastern and Western Europe, United Kingdom, and in the United States. They present opportunities for research and development.

THE CONVERSATION

Here we provide links to some interesting articles published in The Conversation. Enjoy.

Resources to tourism is a big leap

<http://theconversation.com/moving-from-resources-to-tourism-is-a-bigger-leap-than-we-think-37836>

Regional Australia and refugee policy

<http://theconversation.com/regional-australia-can-be-a-carrot-or-stick-in-the-new-refugee-policy-32210>

Perth as a future model of urban planning

<https://theconversation.com/perth-could-become-a-model-for-21st-century-urban-planning-36350>

Regional Broadband may not be all that is expected of it

From The Conversation 27 November 2014, 6:33AM AEDT an article by Rowan Wilken

<https://theconversation.com/nbn-benefits-regional-centres-but-rural-australia-is-still-left-wanting-34532>

Regions and the Sharing Economy

The personal sharing economy may transform the regional economy. A recent article in The Conversation suggests.

What lessons do the sharing economy and businesses such as Uber have for people in regional and remote locations? We know that people living in remote regions are earning incomes by undertaking contracts for specific service on line. The Conversation offered the following article by Danielle Logue (UTS) and Markus A. Höllerer (UNSW) June 10, 2015 5.58am AEST

http://theconversation.com/uber-micropreneurs-signal-the-end-of-work-as-we-know-it-42483?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The+Weekend+Conversation+-+2957&utm_content=The+Weekend+Conversation+-+2957+CID_2cd9c0942cdc0a5a58e317458567c3eb&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=Uber%20micropreneurs%20signal%20the%20end%20of%20work%20as%20we%20know%20it

SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAL, 5(2)

Logue and Höllerer refer to Gerald F. Davis. 2009. 'The rise and fall of finance and the end of the society of organizations', *Academy of Management Perspectives*, 23(3) :27-44.

We can speculate that the end of the society of organizations will lead to a society of individuals collaborating as global on-line contractors. If so regions which offer lifestyle advantages will grow. That effect is visible now. (Editor).

From Gippyagchat: Waste to power

The 2015 Gippsland Bioenergy Forum (18 June 2015) was organized by the Victorian Bioenergy Network and Agribusiness Gippsland with help from RDA Gippsland, Sustainability Victoria, and Wellington Shire/Latrobe City Councils. Participants discussed Joint Venturing in Regional food production.

Bioenergy firms from NZ, Queensland, Tasmania and NSW were invited to describe their processes for producing energy from farm or factory wastes. Among the topics discussed were:

- adding food waste to sewage sludge to produce biogas and reduce power bills by 15% in peak load and 30% other times.
- using effluent from dairy farms to grow algae, which can be used to fuel a biodigester leaving a stable fertiliser.
- funding a biogas energy facility for a food processor where the power project is owned by an agricultural fund manager, operated by a power utility, and benefits are shared with the food processor.

Regional Policy and Practice

An example of best practice in fostering entrepreneurship

Business SA, South Australia's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, offers the three-sixty program. This program builds on a long series of initiatives which began in the late 1990's initiative SA Business Vision 2010.

For details see <http://business-sa.com/threesixty>

National Stronger Regions Fund

With permission we reproduce from FreightLog June 2015, the newsletter of the South Australian Freight Council, some commentary on the winners from the First Round of National Stronger Regions Fund

Funding of \$212.2 million has been approved for 51 projects under Round One of the Australian Government's National Stronger Regions Fund.

The Fund promises to deliver \$1 billion over 5 years, providing individual grants of \$20,000 to \$10 million (which must be matched) for infrastructure projects that deliver long term economic benefits.

SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAL, 5(2)

A total of 51 projects were funded in round one, chosen from 405 applications - indicating that the program is extremely competitive. Four projects were successful in SA, however only one was freight transport related - the construction of a B- Double compliant roundabout on Lucindale Road in the Naracoorte/Lucindale Council area.

SAFC CEO, Mr Neil Murphy noted 'This program is ideal for Councils and Regional Development Australia Committees to utilise to solve small freight transport issues, often with large economic and social impacts on the surrounding local area'.

'In particular, First and Last Mile transport issues are an excellent match to the terms and objects of the Fund, and I urge those with such issues to talk to their local council or RDA committee about making an application in the next round' he said.

Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Jamie Briggs said he was delighted to see such a strong response to the call for projects in Round One.

“The application period for Round Two of the National Stronger Regions Fund will open from 15 May 2015 to 31 July 2015,” Mr Briggs said.

“Local government and incorporated not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply for the second tranche of funding.

“This Fund is highly competitive so I encourage applicants to put their best projects forward for consideration under Round Two.

Author: Evan Knapp

[The Cockatoo 20 March 2015 also discussed the National Stronger Regions Fund as follows](#)

Round One closed on 28 November 2014 – successful projects [were announced in May 2015.]

Round Two opens on 1 May - and closes on 31 July.

- Grants must be between \$20,000 and \$10 million (latter figure is nonsense).
- Eligibility restricted to local councils and incorporated not-for-profits.
- Grant funding must be matched in cash.
- Only for capital projects i.e. construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade, extension or enhancement of existing infrastructure.
- Applies only to disadvantaged regions or areas of disadvantage within a region.

Executive change at the Regional Australia Institute

The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) today announced Su McCluskey will be stepping down from her role as CEO at the end of June to pursue other opportunities. Ms McCluskey is the RAI's inaugural CEO and has been pivotal in establishing the Institute as the authoritative voice of regional Australia.

The RAI Board has appointed the Institute's Deputy CEO, Jack Archer, to the position of CEO, commencing on 1 July 2015.

SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAL, 5(2)

“On behalf of the Board, I’d like to thank Su for the incredible energy and commitment she has given to the organisation,” said Chair of the RAI, Mal Peters OAM.

Ms McCluskey has recently been appointed to the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee. 9 May 2015

PASCAL International Observatory

PASCAL International Observatory is a research and policy alliance dedicated to bringing cutting edge ideas to local and regional policy-making. It is focused on the development of place through learning and social cohesion. PASCAL emphasises the importance of international comparisons and of the exchange of good practice to assess and improve local performance.

PASCAL has centres in Europe, the US, Australia and South Africa, and retains a strong cadre of international experts drawn from senior positions in academia and national and international policy organisations, including several connected with the original OECD Learning Cities and Regions study. This programme is directed from the PASCAL centre based in Glasgow University.

See: pascalobservatory.org

For a recent and interesting review of adult learning and regional development see:

<http://pascalobservatory.org/pascalnow/pascal-activities/news/adult-education-and-place-vital-link-learning-cities-policy-briefin>

The Australian PASCAL International Centre is directed by Professor Bruce Wilson at RMIT University, who also directs the EU Centre at RMIT.

Future Tax Discussion Paper and Intergeneration Report in Australia

The future policy and tax settings in Australia are discussed in the recent Intergeneration Report and the current Future Tax Discussion Paper.

The key document remains *Australia’s Future Tax System, Report to the Treasurer*, December 2009, available at www.taxreview.treasury.gov.au and otherwise known as the Henry Tax Review. It provides

“...a systemic approach, encompassing the legal, economic and administrative structure of both transfers and taxes at all levels of government.”

“The Review looks forward over the next 40 years to mid-century. Through these decades we expect:

- a new world economic order based on ever-deepening international integration, with new centres of competition and opportunity increasingly located in close proximity to us;
- the transformation of business, commerce and personal lives by technological advances, especially in digital electronics and communications;
- ageing of the population, reducing some tax bases and raising the costs of health, aged care and dependency;
- strong growth and cultural diversification of our population, with high demands for economic infrastructure, education and social infrastructure spending;

SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSI, 5(2)

- deepening stresses between human activities and wider ecosystems, globally and locally; and
- further stresses on housing affordability and pressure on urban amenity.

“Unfortunately, we must also assume that the world will continue to present high risks of conflict imposing high security costs.

“Our task is to define a tax and transfer system that anticipates and responds to those expectations. We find that much of the key architecture of the existing tax and transfer system, built last century, reflects sound policy frameworks and Australian social values and will still serve us well.

“But not all of it will — a range of key reforms would even better equip us for the changing era ahead.” (Australia’s Future Tax System, 2009: xv)

The *Tax Discussion Paper* (Australian Government, 2005, Re:think, Tax Discussion Paper) notes that:

“Over the next few decades, the challenge for Australia is to maintain and improve standards of living through economic growth. The recent Intergenerational Report shows that continuing steps to boost productivity and encourage higher workforce participation will be critical to driving future economic growth....(Tax Discussion Paper, 2015: iii)

“Last year, the Government abolished the carbon and mining taxes, which were a drag on growth. We also announced changes to the taxation arrangements for employee share schemes to provide generous incentives for new start-ups.

“This year, we will deliver a package for small business to expand opportunities for Australian businesses and workers.

“The Government is committed to ensuring that everyone is paying their fair share of tax.

“This year, we are continuing to work with the G20 on the modernisation of international tax rules to address tax avoidance by multinational companies.

“But that is just the start. We want to have an open and constructive conversation with the community on how we can create a better tax system that delivers taxes that are lower, simpler, fairer.” (Tax discussion paper, 2015: iii)

This seems to your editor to be a debate in which ANZRSI and our members should take part.

“A tax system that encourages productive endeavour. (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 1)

“Changes to our tax system could foster new opportunities for businesses and workers and promote economic growth. Indeed, some argue that comprehensive tax reform could promote economic growth more than any other area of government policy. (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 1)

Labour productivity has been, and will continue to be, the principal contributor to the growth of incomes in Australia, having contributed between 3% and 1% to the annual growth in real national income per person in every decade since the 1960’s, (Chart 1.2, Tax discussion paper, 2015: 10)

Financial deregulation, the growth of multinational companies using global supply chains and the increasing digitisation of global commerce have been overwhelmingly positive developments for Australia, but do pose substantial challenges to the tax system, including by driving global tax avoidance activities. Likewise, bracket creep, which pushes people on to higher tax rates with rising incomes over time, is a growing problem that impacts on workforce participation. The tax system needs to adapt to these challenges. (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 1)

The Government's review of roles and responsibilities across the Federation provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to examine the whole of the tax system. (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 2)

"There is evidence that the economic costs of revenue-raising in Australia are higher than they need to be." (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 2) Particular reference is given to income tax, company tax which reduces investment and living standards, and State stamp duties.

"There are opportunities to simplify the tax system." A complex tax system increases tax payer expenditures on "...compliance and tax management." Complexity arises from the use of "...tax concessions aimed at assisting particular groups, ...regular 'patching' of the [tax] law, ...overly risk averse ...policy advisers and administrators, [and] complex legislative drafting." (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 2)

"...interactions between the tax system and the transfer system can discourage workforce participation for some people. In addition, our relatively high top marginal tax rate and the gap between the top marginal tax rate and the company tax rate results in tax planning and avoidance. Tax concessions need to be well justified to ensure the fairness of the tax system." (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 2)

"The tax treatment of savings is very complex and distorts savings choices." (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 3) Savings accounts are taxed but superannuation is not.

Tax reform offers one of the largest opportunities to improve investment and productivity and help maintain and improve growth in standards of living.

"Transitional arrangements are important." (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 3)

Many of the questions provided in the Tax discussion paper are relevant to regions. For example:

- "As the zone tax offset is administered based on geographic boundaries that were last updated in 1981, some people question whether the areas within the zone are truly those with the highest living costs or remoteness. Further, in a recent report tabled by the House Standing Committee on Regional Australia in February 2013, some of the submissions raised the concern that 'fly-in, fly-out' workers should not receive the zone tax offset. This was on the grounds that fly-in, fly-out workers tend to spend and invest their money where their families reside, and do not necessarily incur the higher costs of living in the zone." (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 54)
- "New Zealand 'cashed out' work-related expense (WRE) deductions in the late 1980s by providing income tax cuts in exchange for disallowing WRE deductions. This has been a major driver of compliance savings by reducing the number of people needing to file a tax return — in the 2012 tax year around 1.25 million individual tax returns were filed in New Zealand out of an estimated 3.3 million individual tax payers. (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 54)

- How effective is the current range of tax concessions (such as CGT and industry specific concessions) at supporting small business engagement with the tax system? To what extent do the benefits they provide outweigh the compliance, complexity and revenue costs they introduce?
- What other mechanisms (such as a single lower tax rate, improved technology deployment or other non-tax mechanisms) could assist small businesses to engage with the tax system while decreasing compliance and complexity costs?
- What are the relative priorities for state and local tax reform and why? In considering reform opportunities for particular state taxes, what are the broader considerations that need to be taken into account to balance equity, efficiency and transitional costs?
- Does each level of government have access to tax revenue bases to finance new spending decisions? If not, should arrangements change to achieve this? How should they change? How important is it that the national government levies taxes on mobile bases? Could some taxes be shared?
- Would there be benefits in integrating the administration of taxes across the Federation?
- If so, what would be required to realise these benefits?

To join the conversation, go to the 'better tax' website www.bettertax.gov.au. The formal submissions process for this discussion paper starts now. You have until Monday 1 June 2015 to lodge your formal submission at the website.

If you have any questions or comments, you are welcome to contact the Tax White Paper Task Force at bettertax@treasury.gov.au

Regional Development in the Border Regions of Ireland

Regional policy and business strategy: a missing North-South link?

During April 2015 Dr. John Bradley gave an interesting seminar at Queen's University Belfast School of Management in Northern Ireland. The following seminar description is written by Dr. Anthony McDonnell – a.mcdonnell@qub.ac.uk/028 9097 4660

“In this talk Dr. Bradley will set out to try to understand what makes the border region economy distinctive and how it might overcome its three disadvantages: peripherality, rural demographics and its location on a policy fault line.

The seminar will see Dr. Bradley first explore the wider context of the border economy, where international and island issues heavily condition outcomes and prospects for the region. He will then show the problems that arise when one tries to use official data to examine the characteristics of the border region economy from the outside and uncover just how neglectful Belfast and Dublin have been in gathering regional facts or in evolving much by way of useful regional strategic economic and business thinking.

However, it is not until we move to the local level of individual enterprises and people that we begin to understand how small, innovative firms can start up, survive and thrive in the border region; the methods that these entrepreneurs use to grow their businesses; and how they often manage to turn what initially looked like border-related disadvantages into gateways to opportunities.

The public rhetoric on this island has come to be dominated by the view that industrial and wider business strategy is the responsibility of central government and state agencies. Somehow the business sector in Ireland as well as the Trade Union sector find it difficult to mobilise themselves in the way of many successful European regions and this difficulty also dominates thinking in the border region.

This is very serious because it is what goes on inside firms that really matters, in terms of new firm creation, survival, growth, diversification, partnering and internationalisation. The main realisation that emerged from our work (carried out for the CCBS jointly with Professor Michael Best of UMass Lowell) was that we actually understand much less of these processes here in Ireland than we confidently believe.

There are two paradigms for the future of the border region economy, with major knock-on consequences for the wider island economy. One leads in the direction of dependency through compensation for perceived threats and weaknesses. It is pushed by state agencies and creates a comfort zone for regional actors. The other seeks to identify existing strengths and opportunities and to shape distinctive regional development strategies that require much greater local inputs and makes greater calls on local imagination and implementation.

Dr. Bradley's research leads us to think about regional development in the cross-border area – and elsewhere on the island – in new and potentially exciting ways. Dr Bradley suggests that a better way to look at regional development is to ask the following question: “If there appear to be so many worthy projects lying around waiting to be executed, what is stopping them?” In other words, we need to understand better what is, rather than dream ineffectively about what we would like to be.”

[Speaker Biography](#)

Dr John Bradley was formerly a Research Professor at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and is an international research consultant in economic development, with an emphasis on EU cohesion policy and industrial strategy in all of the member states. He was responsible for the design and implementation of a system of macro models used by the European Commission to evaluate the impact of Structural Funds in promoting the objectives of cohesion. In 2012 he co-authored (with Michael Best) the CCBS study “Cross-border economic renewal: re-thinking regional policy in Ireland”. He regularly acts as a consultant to the European Commission, the European Parliament and government ministries in the EU and elsewhere.

The Centre for Irish Business and Economic Performance (CIBEP), hosted by Queen's University Management School, brings together interdisciplinary scholars researching business, economic and management performance on the island of Ireland. The aim is to contribute to growth by aiding the engagement of stakeholders in research-informed debate, the dissemination of research, and the provision of informed and independent data.

Conferences and Study Opportunities

New Postgraduate study Opportunity – Regional Innovation

The Graduate Certificate in Regional Innovation is designed for leaders and managers in regional organisations across all sectors who are seeking to develop practical, innovative solutions to on-the-ground challenges and leverage emerging opportunities.

This new course is offered by the Institute for Regional Development at the University of Tasmania in partnership with the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics.

Strongly focused on applied learning, this course links theory with practice to provide the knowledge and skills for leading innovative change processes that create opportunities for firms, institutions and regions.

Units include ‘Learning through Practice’, ‘Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Regions’ and ‘Regional Development Theory and Practice’ and are available online and via intensive 3-day workshops on the beautiful North West Coast of Tasmania.

New students can enrol in June and start with ‘Regional Development Theory and Practice’ offered over 7 weeks in July/August 2015.

For further details, contact : Dr Clayton J Hawkins, Coursework Coordinator, Institute for Regional Development, Phone: +61 3 6430 4982, Email: Clayton.Hawkins@utas.edu.au

Regional Science Association International

The Regional Science Association International (RSAI) invites submissions for the annual competition for the Best Doctoral Dissertation in Regional Science. Regional science is an interdisciplinary field concerned with theory, method, and application of regional, urban and rural, geographic and spatial investigations and analyses.

The winner will be decided by the Selection Committee and will receive a cash award of 750 Euros. Award announcements will be made at the North American Meetings of the RSAI, where participants in the competition are strongly encouraged to be present. The Selection Committee reserves the right to not make an award. Decisions made by the Selection Committee are final.

Eligibility:

1. A dissertation completed in any Ph.D. program in any country is eligible,
2. A dissertation written in English,
3. A dissertation successfully defended, with official graduation date between July 1st 2014 and June 30th 2015,
4. A dissertation on a single or multiple general regional science topics. The Selection Committee reserves the right to determine whether a dissertation is relevant to the field of regional science.

Application (in either PDF or MS Word format):

1. A two-page curriculum vita;

SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 5(2)

2. A letter of support and nomination from the major professor (also known as dissertation committee chairperson or supervisor) on stationary paper and with signature. The letter should clearly explain the dissertation's originality and contributions to the field of regional science;
3. The dissertation.

Applications should be submitted electrically by July 31, 2015 to the Selection Committee Chair, Dr. Shaoming Cheng (scheng@fiu.edu). Large submissions can be uploaded to a cloud file-sharing site. Questions regarding the dissertation competition may be sent to him too.

Elisabete Martins, RSAI Secretariat, Regional Science Association International - RSAI
University of Azores | Rua Capitão João D'Ávila, 9700-042-Angra do Heroísmo,
Azores, Portugal | www.regionalscience.org | E-mail: rsai@apdr.pt

19th ASEF Summer University in Pune, India, 9-21 August 2015

OPEN CALL

Are cities hubs for living history?

19th ASEF Summer University
Sustainable Urbanisation in Heritage Cities

#ASEFSU

Pune, India | 9-21 August 2015



Explore the synergies between sustainable urbanisation and heritage preservation and join us for a dynamic 2-week programme of dialogue-sessions with leading experts, hands-on workshops and a hack-a-thon. Grab your chance to be part of a team of students and young professionals from [51 ASEM member countries](#) and co-create digital and physical prototypes, business plans and social impact models in close collaboration with the local community.

What: [19th ASEF Summer University](#) (#ASEFSU)

Where: Pune, India

When: 9-21 August 2015

Apply [here](#) by Tuesday, 30 June 2015

The organisers will grant a financial subsidy that covers transportation. In addition, accommodation and meals will be provided throughout the project period.

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SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 5(2)

World Bank annual conference on Land and Poverty

ANZRSAI recently received the following invitation from John Carruthers (jic@gwu.edu) (Phone +611 (240) 575-8579) seeking assistance with the World Bank annual conference on Land and Poverty. Council has decided that we do not at present have the needed resources. We reproduce the invitation here for the information of members. This may be revisited as a joint venture opportunity (Editor).

“For the past several years, I have provided logistical support for the World Bank's annual Conference on Land and Poverty. The meeting takes place in March and brings together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers - including some very high level people - from around the globe.

In the wake of this year's meeting, I have suggested that we work to increase level of participation among the scientific community - and made the case that RSAI is the organization best positioned to contribute. Toward that end, I write to ask if you'd be interested in participating in the 2016 meeting - and, especially, if you'd be interested in helping to organize a session/s for the meeting? Ideally, I'd like to add at least five new sessions to the meeting.

A link to this year's conference is here:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2014/08/06/landconference2015>

A story about George Washington University's involvement in the conference - namely, our students - is available here:

<http://gwtoday.gwu.edu/foot-door-consulting-world>

The Land and Poverty Conference is a terrific venue for us - because it's a venue where some of our ideas find some policy traction.

Contact: John I. Carruthers, Ph.D.
Director, Sustainable Urban Planning Program
College of Professional Studies
The George Washington University
Tel. 240.575.8579
Email: jic@gwu.edu.

For more details on the Land and Poverty conference see here

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2014/08/06/landconference2015#1>

The 16th Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty was held from March 23 – 27, 2015 at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington D.C. Over 1200 participants attended from 123 countries. The participants included leaders and professionals from across governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and partners to interact and discuss innovative approaches to improving land governance.

Under the theme ‘Linking land tenure to land use’ participants discussed land governance issues in more than 100 sessions, and roundtables. A day-long Innovations Fair on March 26 enabled participants to assess progress on issues like spatial data acquisition, mobile technology and other applications that help improve service delivery, transparency and analytical capacity. The Opening Keynote Speaker for the 2015 Conference was James Robinson, Harvard professor and author of ‘Why Nations Fail.’ He reminded

participants during the conference that a narrow technocratic approach that fails to fully account for associated political economy issues may be ineffective even have negative consequences. You can view the [recording of his keynote speech](#).

Another feature of the 2015 Conference was a day of MasterClasses on March 27. Sponsors and Partners offered hands-on MasterClasses or clinics in a classroom setting to familiarize participants with cutting edge tools and techniques developed to help policy makers.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Regional Science Policy & Practice

ABSTRACTS Vol 7(2) June 2015

Pages 61-74

Rural poverty, health and food access

Steven Deller, Amber Canto and Laura Brown
DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12056

Abstract: Using US non-metropolitan county data we test if food access contributes to the well-established poverty and poor health relationship. Our analysis confirms the poverty and poor health relationship and that access to healthier food is associated with better public health outcomes in rural counties. There is mixed evidence that the poverty and poor health relationship is stronger in rural areas with limited food access. Access to healthier foods could diminish the poverty and poor health relationship, but one must take a regional perspective when thinking about rural communities and public health.

Pages 75-87

Someone else's boom but always our bust: Australia as a derivative economy, implications for regions

Bruce Wilson, Anthony Hogan, Michael Cuthill, Douglas Baker, Laurie Buys and Lorelle Burton
DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12057

Abstract: This paper examines the socio-economic impact of mineral and agricultural resource extraction on local communities and explores policy options for addressing them. An

emphasis on the marketization of services together with tight fiscal control has reinforced decline in many country communities in Australia and elsewhere. However, the introduction by the European Union of Regional Policy which emphasizes 'smart specialization' can enhance greatly the capacity of local people to generate decent livelihoods. For this to have real effect, the innovative state has to enable partnerships between communities, researchers and industry. For countries like Australia, this would be a substantive policy shift.

Pages 89-101

Estimation and determinants of energy efficiency in Japanese regional economies

Akihiro Otsuka and Mike Goto
DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12058

Abstract: In response to increased environmental constraints, it has become an important policy issue for Japan to improve energy efficiency for the future, along with the growth of regional economies. This paper uses a stochastic frontier model to estimate the energy demand function and analyse the levels and determinants of energy efficiency. The empirical analysis conducted by using data from 47 prefectures in Japan revealed the following four findings. First, the proposed energy efficiency measure (calculated using the stochastic frontier model) is found to be effective, as its ranking is highly correlated with that of energy intensity. Second, increasing population density is effective in improving energy efficiency. Third, improving regional accessibility by developing a highway network helps to improve the energy efficiency

in Japan. Fourth, the level of energy efficiency is deteriorating in areas where raw material industries are clustered. These results indicate that the means to increasing both economic productivity and environmental efficiency are to implement a regional decentralization policy by creating major urban areas across the nation and expand a wide-area transportation network to link these areas. In addition, the promotion of technological innovations through appropriate environmental regulations is important to advance such regional policies.

Journal of Regional Science

Volume 55, Issue 3, June 2015

Pages 339-363

The SLX model

Solmaria Halleck Vega¹ and J. Paul Elhorst

Abstract: We provide a comprehensive overview of the strengths and weaknesses of different spatial econometric model specifications in terms of spillover effects. Based on this overview, we advocate taking the SLX model as point of departure in case a well-founded theory indicating which model is most appropriate is lacking. In contrast to other spatial econometric models, the SLX model also allows for the spatial weights matrix W to be parameterized and the application of standard econometric techniques to test for endogenous explanatory variables. This starkly contrasts commonly used spatial econometric specification strategies and is a complement to the critique of spatial econometrics raised in a special theme issue of the *Journal of Regional Science* (Volume 52, Issue 2). To illustrate the pitfalls of the standard spatial econometrics approach and the benefits of our proposed alternative approach in an empirical setting, the Baltagi and Li (2004) cigarette demand model is estimated.

Pages 364-390

State merit-based financial aid programs and college attainment

David L. Sjoquist¹ and John V. Winters

Abstract: This paper examines the effects of state merit-based student aid programs on college attendance and degree completion. Our primary analysis uses microdata from the 2000 United States Census and 2001–2010 American Community Survey to estimate the effects of exposure to merit programs on educational outcomes for 25 states that adopted such programs by 2004. We also utilize administrative data for the University System of Georgia to look more in depth at the effects of exposure to the HOPE Scholarship on degree completion. We find strong consistent evidence that exposure to state merit aid programs have no meaningfully positive effect on college completion.

Pages 416-441

Integration of immigrants, bridging social capital, ethnicity and locality

Vassilis Tselios, Inge Noback, Jouke van Dijk and Philip McCann

DOI: 10.1111/jors.12160

Abstract: This paper analyses a uniquely detailed data set of social integration characteristics of immigrants belonging to four non-native ethnic groups (i.e., Turks, Moroccans, Surinamese, and Antilleans) living in Dutch neighborhoods. It is well known that an individual's level of social integration is related to the ethnic composition and economic development of an immigrant's residential locality, as well as the generation of the immigrant. Yet, what is not known is whether the social and economic characteristics of adjacent or neighboring localities also influence an individual's level of social integration. Using a multilevel hierarchical analysis with spatial

interaction effects, we examine the extent to which four social integration aspects of the bridging social capital of these immigrant groups are related to their ethnicity, their generation, their immediate locality, and the effects of the neighboring localities. Our findings regarding the effects of the ethnic concentration and economic development of the immediate locality along with the immigrant's generation broadly concur with existing studies. At the same time, however, we also find that the features of neighboring localities exert an additional influence on an individual's social integration over and above those related to the immigrant's generation and immediate locality. These additional spatial spillover effects are broadly in line with those associated with the immediate locality, but they are also sensitive to particular proxies for social integration which are employed. These spatial spillover effects on social capital and social integration have not been observed before.

Pages 442-467

House price impacts of racial, income, education, and age neighborhood segregation

David M. Brasington, Diane Hite and
Andres Jauregui

Abstract: We study housing prices and neighborhood segregation. We advance the literature by (1) studying not just racial segregation like previous studies, but also segregation by age, income, and education level, (2) using a finer unit of geography to construct segregation measures, (3) incorporating spatial statistics, and (4) separating segregation effects from underlying population level effects. We find race segregation is positively related to house prices, with an elasticity of 0.19. In contrast, income and educational segregation reduce housing values, with elasticities of -0.23 and -0.21 . By comparison, house age has an

elasticity of -0.15 . Age segregation is not generally capitalized.

Pages 468-490

Residential sorting and environmental externalities: The case of nonlinearities and stigma in aviation noise values

Sotirios Thanos, Abigail L. Bristow and
Mark R. Wardman

Abstract: This paper explores the sorting process in response to differing levels of aviation noise exposure in a housing market. Spatiotemporal hedonic pricing (HP) and stated choice (SC) results reflect nonlinearities and stigma. The HP models reveal nonlinear noise depreciation increasing from 0.40 to 2.38 percent per decibel as noise increases, while the SC noise values are lower in an area with high long-term noise exposure. These nonlinearities are attributed to the spatial sorting of noise tolerant individuals. HP results from the same “noisy” area show a “stigma” from noise during the first year after the complete removal of aviation noise.

Pages 491-512

Emergence of leapfrogging from residential choice with endogenous green space: Analytical results

Dominique Peeters, Geoffrey Caruso,
Jean Cavaillhès, Isabelle Thomas,
Pierre Frankhauser and Gilles Vuidel

Abstract: Leapfrog development is a typical form of sprawl. This paper aims at analyzing the existence, size, and persistence of leapfrogging in a dynamic urban economic model with endogenous green amenities. We analyze whether incoming households choose to settle at the fringe of the city or to jump further away depending on their preferences and the structure of the city. We first provide an analytical treatment of the conditions and characteristics under which a first leapfrog occurs and show

how the optimal choice is affected by the size of the city, income, commuting costs, as well as the size of the area where green amenities are considered. We then study how further leapfrogging and multiple urban rings may appear and be maintained in the long-run equilibrium, and how infill processes take place through time.

ABOUT ANZRSAI

ANZRSAI Annual Conference 2015

Planning for the 2015 ANZRSAI Conference 1-4 December 2015 at University of Technology Sydney is well advanced. A first call for papers is due very soon. Be prepared.

ANZRSAI Council Notes

AJRS

The now retired editors of our highly acclaimed journal, the Australasian Journal of Regional Studies, Professor Tony Sorensen and Dr Sonya Glavac have continued the journal's outstanding record in changing times for scholarship and research. The new editors are Professors Bruce Wilson (RMIT) and Mike Hefferan and Dr Wayne Graham (USC) and Assoc Prof Paul Collits..

Volume 1 for 2015 has been published and volume 2 is expected in July. Council has considered an issue with the theme of agricultural change and rural society.

Roles and Responsibilities for ANZRSAI Council Members

Our Executive Officer has produced the following Guide for Council members on their roles and responsibilities. It more clearly specifies roles within Council and will enable workloads and leadership to be better distributed across all Council members. Implementation is a work in progress.

It is expected that all members of Council will:

- Actively promote ANZRSAI through their regional networks
- Contribute at least one article per annum to Sustaining Regions, the newsletter of ANZRSAI
- Act as a peer reviewer for at least two articles per annum for the Australasian Journal of Regional Studies
- Wherever possible, attend the annual conference of ANZRSAI

Responsibility to ensure completion of tasks in specific portfolios is to be allocated to pairs of Council members. It is expected that each non-Executive member of Council will take on one leadership role.

1. Website Updates and Maintenance – This portfolio will have responsibility for the content of our website, working alongside the Executive Officer. This includes the News items, which will be updated on at least a monthly basis.
2. Membership and Recruitment – This portfolio will be responsible for recruitment of new members, particularly PhD students and institutional members. The Association has an aim of increasing membership and raising the profile of the Association amongst early career researchers and practitioners. The Executive Officer will assist with bulk emails and maintaining databases of contacts, and the portfolio leaders will have responsibility for the recruitment campaigns.
3. Conference Organising Committee – This portfolio will work with the Executive on all aspects of the Annual ANZRSAI Conference. It is hoped that at least one portfolio leader will be resident in the city in which conference is being held.

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