



Australian Government
Bureau of Rural Sciences

Country Matters: social atlas of rural and regional Australia

Picturing people in polygons: on paper and in pixels

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Picturing people in polygons....

on paper

POPULATION	
MAP 1	Population density, 2001
MAP 2	Population change, 1996-2001
MAP 3	Children, 2001
MAP 4	Change in the number of children, 1996-2001
MAP 5	Health, 2001
MAP 6	Change in the number of people, 1996-2001
MAP 7	People of working age, 2001
MAP 8	Change in the number of people of working age, 1996-2001
MAP 9	Elderly population, 2001
MAP 10	Change in the number of elderly people, 1996-2001
MAP 11	Elderly population aged 75 years or older, 2001
MAP 12	Change in the number of elderly people aged 75 years or older, 1996-2001
MAP 13	Median age of the total population, 2001
MAP 14	Change in the median age of the total population, 1996-2001
MAP 15	Total dependency ratio, 2001
MAP 16	Elderly dependency ratio, 2001
MAP 17	Sex ratio, 2001
MAP 18	Elderly sex ratio, 2001
MAP 19	Indigenous population, 2001
MAP 20	Change in the number of Indigenous people, 1996-2001
MAP 21	Recent arrivals in Australia, 2001
MAP 22	Fluency in English, 2001



BACKGROUND...

- Why the need? -

Country Matters (1999):

- Provided demographic and socioeconomic data in a user-friendly and user-relevant format
- Based on 1996 Census data



- *Why the need?* -

Country Matters (2004):

- Production of a revised *Country Matters* to meet ongoing demand for information
- Based on 2001 Census data



- Planning -

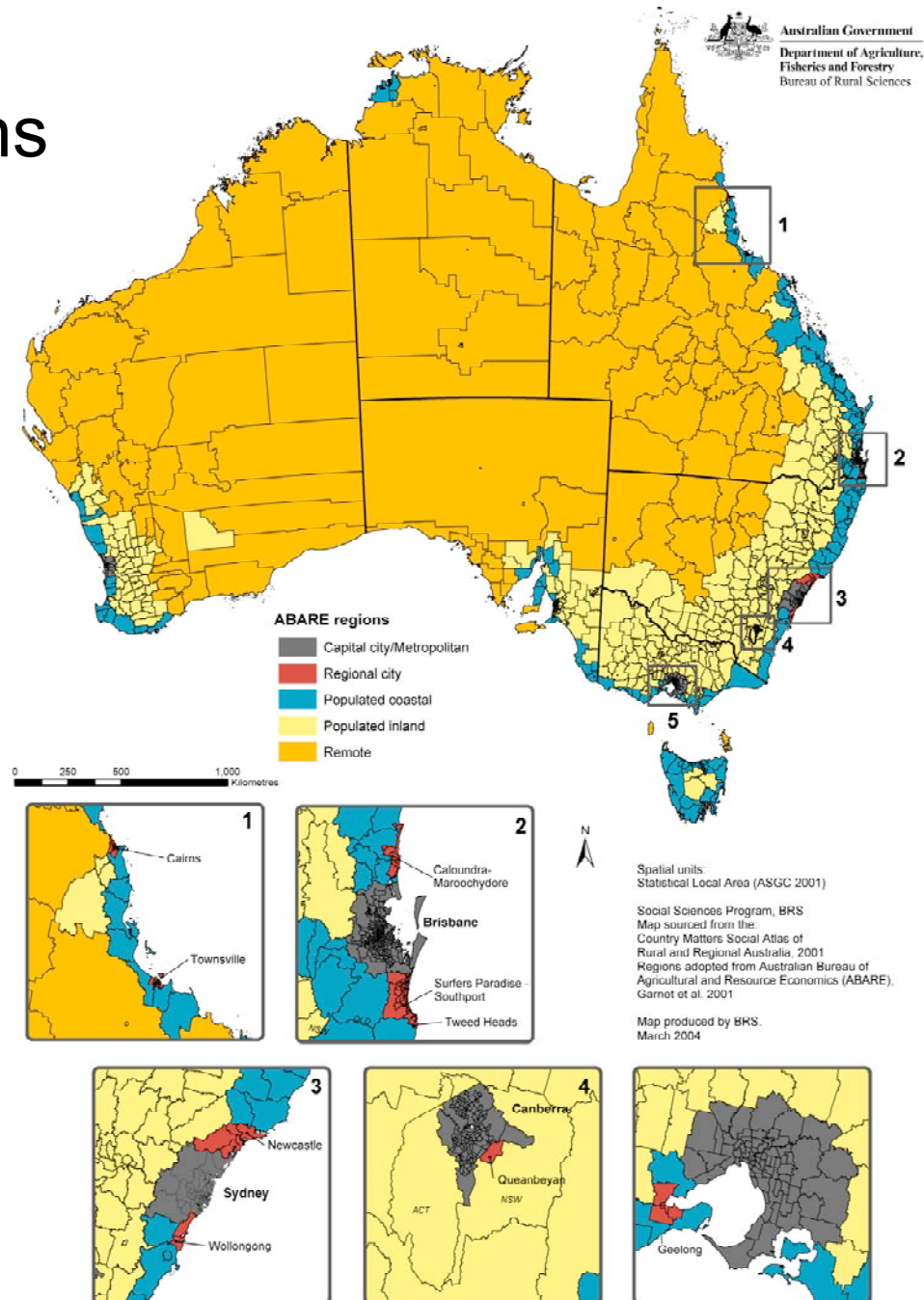
- Steering committee
- Input on topic choice, layout & design and overall usability of the Atlas
- Content comparability with ABS Metropolitan Atlas series

COMPOSITION...

- *Design* -

- Basic geographical unit of analysis: Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)
- Time series analysis: 2001, 1996, 1991
- Sub non-metropolitan scale → Regional comparisons

Regional classifications

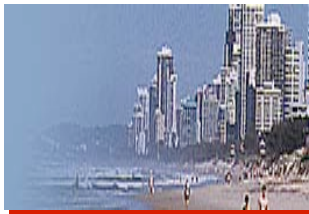


AUSTRALIA

Metropolitan
(capital cities)

Non-metropolitan
(outside of capital cities)

Regional cities



Populations
of 100,000 or
more

Populated coastal



More densely
populated
within 80km
of coastline

Populated inland



Inland from
the coast
excluding
remote.

Remote



Sparsely
populated
areas -
remote and
very remote

- Themes -

The Atlas consists of 70 maps covering:

- Population
- Labour force
- Education
- Families and households
- Income
- Housing
- Computers
- Relative socio-economic disadvantage (SEIFA)

- *General layout* -

- For most variables, two types of maps provided :

Situational assessment

(snapshot map based on latest available information, such as, eg 2001 census data)

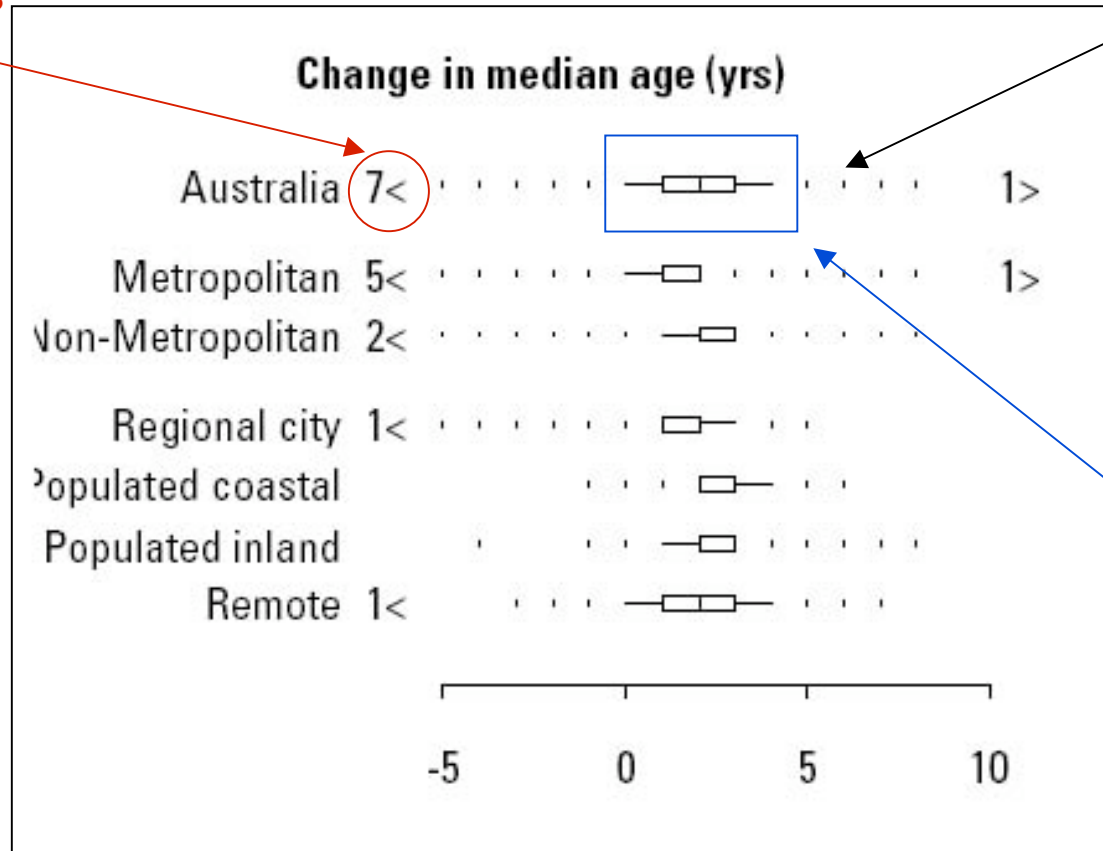
Change scenario

(comparison map of change from 1996-2001)

- Box plots -

Extreme outliers

Outliers



95% of values

- Data representation -

Different levels:

⇒ At most basic level, absolute values
(e.g. population density)

⇒ Value relative to non-metropolitan
average

- Reference maps -

To maximise user-relevance for more detailed area specific information:

1. Australian cities and regional centres
2. Statistical divisions and lists of SLAs
3. NAP regions
4. Wheat-sheep belt

WHAT DOES IT SHOW?

- Where do Australians live? -

- In 2001, 11.9 million lived in capital cities compared to 6.9 million outside of them.
- More Australians are moving to Non-metropolitan areas at a rate of 0.8% a year.

- Where do Australians live? -

- Regional cities are attracting the most population growth (1.6% p.a.)
- Populated coastal areas are the other large population growth areas (0.9% p.a.)

How does non-metro differ to metro?

- More sparsely settled
- Population growing at slower rate
- People are older

How does non-metro differ to metro?

- Higher Indigenous population
- Fewer overseas migrants
- More workers employed in natural resource industries

How does non-metro differ to metro?

- More evenly balanced sex ratio
- Adult and youth unemployment has declined faster
- People more likely to have vocational qualifications and are acquiring them at a faster rate.

Regional lifestyle differences...

Regional cities

- More migrants
- More higher educational qualifications
- Very high population growth rate
- Stable youth population

Regional lifestyle differences...

Populated coastal areas

- Highest median age
- Less high-income households
- Less youth
- High population growth

Regional lifestyle differences...

Populated inland region

- Less migrants and Indigenous people
- Ageing population and decline in youth
- Below average unemployment
- Above average income

Regional lifestyle differences...

Remote

- Very sparsely settled
- Highly dependent on natural resource industries
- More males, people of working age and Indigenous Australians
- Highest median income but poor social and economic advantage.

Did you know...

Nearly of
households
(21.7%)
were one
person in 2001

5.9% of families
are 'Double Incomes
No Kids' in 2001



Douglas (QLD):
72% of people
accessed the Internet
from their home

Phone: 1800 020 157

Email: salesbrs@brs.gov.au

Online: www.brs.gov.au

Related work...

Atlases:

- Out of the cellar: Atlas of Australia's winegrowing regions
- Marine Matters: Atlas of marine activities and coastal communities



Related work...

Industry profiles:

- Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry sector
- Dairy industry
- Sugar industry
- Pig meat industry



Social impact assessment:

- GBRMPA



