Regional Australia Impact Statement

A Regional Australia Impact Statement (RAIS) summarises how a proposal will impact regional communities, economies, and stakeholders to inform Government decision-making. A RAIS is required for proposals which are likely to have a significant positive or negative impact on regional Australia.

Drafters should consult the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications and the Arts early in the development of proposals via [rais@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:rais@infrastructure.gov.au)

For more information please refer to the [RAIS Guidelines](https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/regional-australia-impact-statement-guidelines-2022.pdf)

NOTE: Remove all guidance text in red before submitting your RAIS.

**Impacted Region/s**

* Are specific regions affected? Maps can be included as a visual aid.
* Is the proposal a national program which affects regions differently to urban areas?
* Are impacts of a different scale or type between regions?

Refer to page 7 of the RAIS Guidelines and the Greater Capital City Statistical Area Fact Sheet for assistance on defining a region

**Impacts Assessment**

Outline the positive and negative impacts of the proposals under the categories below, or write “N/A” where a category is not relevant. See also pages 8-10 of the RAIS Guidelines.

*Economic*

Will the proposal impact on:

* + Regions in decline or transition?
  + Employment rates and types of employment (seasonal, part-time or self-employed, FIFO & DIDO workers)?
  + Job creation and regional employment opportunities?
  + Investment and trade?
  + Businesses (small-to-medium in particular)?
  + Industry, particularly the primary industries?
  + Access to training and skills opportunities?
  + Affordable housing options?
  + Local, state and national economies?

*Access to Services*

Consider service access impacts, including health and emergency services, education and training, electricity, water and gas (utilities), childcare, justice and community services among other services that can be provided to a community to improve amenity and liveability.

Would the proposal:

* + Include/exclude or benefit/disadvantage any demographic or equity groups: people with disability, elderly, Indigenous people, culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTQI+ and other disadvantaged, vulnerable or minority groups?
  + Allow for travel times and distances to make the service accessibility reasonable and manageable for regionally-located people?
  + Reduce or fragment service delivery, or increase the accessibility and availability of services?
  + Increase access to government services?
  + Recognise the health and safety implications of isolation from emergency services?

*Connectivity*

Connection infrastructure may include public and private transport, telecommunications and services which help people connect in their region. You should consider whether the policy:

* Positively or negatively affects the availability, quality or cost of accessing connection infrastructure services
* Helps or hinders regional peoples’ movements
* Allows people to engage in consultation or feedback or access and receive information
* Provides training and development to increase digital skills capabilities.

*Social*

Is the proposal likely to:

* Include/exclude or benefit/disadvantage any demographic or equity groups: people with disability, the elderly or youth, people of different genders, Indigenous people, culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTQI+ and other disadvantaged, vulnerable or minority groups?
* Have economic, access to services, connectivity or environmental impacts that will also significantly impact the social dimension of regional communities?
* Create social infrastructure or services which impact community connection?
* Affect not-for-profit, charity or community organisations within regional communities?
* Positively or negatively impact social amenities, social cohesion, cultural or heritage within a community or region?

*Environment*

You should consider whether your policy would have impacts on:

* Environmental significance such as national parks, wildlife habitats or other natural assets
* Environmental factors, such as water supply and quality, air quality, soil and vegetation (e.g. dryland salinity), biodiversity
* Aboriginal cultural heritage or culturally significant places

*Governance*

You should consider the impacts on affected entities regarding:

* Disparity in costs and standards for compliance between regional and metropolitan areas
* How your policy interacts with community organisations, businesses and other levels of government
* Whether your policy might result in cost shifting to state/local government/territories

**Stakeholder and Community Engagement**

Outline stakeholder engagement undertaken in developing the proposal, and how views have been addressed or reflected. Include the predicted viewpoints of key stakeholders and planned engagement throughout implementation. How it consultation be taken into consideration during the implementation phase?

**Mitigation and Management Measures**

Outline how negative impacts will be mitigated and managed, for example through ongoing consultation, engagement or provision of information to communities, or revision of the proposed program/activity at key points in implementation.