

Consultation paper—Regional Data Hub: Understanding and responding to regional data needs (May 2021)

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development response (25 June 2021)

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) uses a suite of economic and demographic data for area-specific profiling and forecasting in relation to regional Western Australia and the State. The datasets help provide insights into the performance of key components of the State's regional economies, changes / trends across regions and performance relative to other areas. DPIRD also uses regional profile data and information on an ad hoc request basis to support staff across government agencies.

It would be preferable that any Federal Data Hub:

- Have the ability to produce reports based on available data sets (e.g. export to Excel)
- Contain time series data sets going back a minimum of ten years to enable sensible trend analysis.

Data sets including the following geographies would be useful:

- Western Australia (State)
- Separately, 10 Western Australian regions – the nine regions as defined under the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*, and the remainder, defined as Perth Metro
- Separately, all WA local government areas
- Regional WA as a single data set (a combined geography inclusive of the nine regions as defined under the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*)

From a functionality perspective, the Data Hub should:

- Enable the aggregation/disaggregation (e.g. disaggregate regions to local government level) and filtering of data
- Be relatable to a spatial context
- Enable the create charts, generate reports, and export data that can be displayed in a variety of formats that can be integrated into other applications and presentations (e.g. Microsoft Excel and Word);
- Be easily customisable (e.g. filtering variables across datasets) to allow staff to make selections on the type of information to be presented
- Allow for economic and community impact modelling to demonstrate potential regional impacts of change.

Relevant training and service support to use the data service will also be required.

The main barriers we have found that prevent access to regional data include:

- The data exists but we are unaware it exists
- The data exists but we can't get permission to access it