



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

# State of Australian Cities 2014-2015

Progress in Australian Regions





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This Report has been prepared by officers of the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. The principal authors, Peter Atkins, Richard Marson and Brendon Brann, would like to acknowledge those people and organisations that contributed to this report. The report would not have been possible without the advice and assistance of our colleagues at the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics, particularly Dr Catharina Williams, and the current and former members of both Planning Analysis Branch and Regional Economic Policy Branch. We also acknowledge the editorial and content oversight of senior Departmental officers, and the provision of expert advice or data from companies including PwC, RP Data and SGS Economics & Planning. The views expressed in this report are those of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, and should not be attributed to any other individual or organization.

Photographs are acknowledged with gratitude in the text.

© Commonwealth of Australia, 2015  
ISBN 978-1-925216-19-6  
December 2014/INFRA2291

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## Foreword

# State of Australian Cities



Since 2010, the State of Australian Cities reports have examined the progress being made in our major cities.

These reports have provided insight into the vital role that Australian cities play in the growth of our economy and have tracked the overall progress made in Australia's major centres. The State of Australian Cities 2014 - 2015 once again looks at the drivers behind some of the public policy issues facing the country today and into the future.

In late 2014, the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development produced *Progress in Australian Regions – Yearbook 2014* as a basis for this report. The *Progress in Australian Regions – Yearbook 2014* contains much of the pure statistical data that has underpinned previous State of Australian Cities reports and also explores progress in Australian regions across a range of indicators for the whole country.

Australia is a highly urbanised country. The populations of Australia's major cities are at record levels, as is the number of people employed. It is in our cities that the overwhelming majority of jobs are located and where the most new jobs are being created. The economic output of our major cities has grown and their national importance remains extremely high.

However, alongside that growth there is more demand on transport systems in Australia than ever before. This report examines population growth, economic growth and the increased traffic flows through our ports and airports and on our roads and rail lines.

Issues of space and the potential conflicts of the usability of cities with the utility and long term capacity of freight hubs, ports and airports and the movement of goods and people in cities is a challenge for policy makers. This report provides the evidence base for policy makers at all levels of government to consider those challenges now and into the future.

**Mike Mrdak**

Secretary

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

July 2015



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