



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

# Yearbook 2014

Progress in Australian Regions





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Tourism Research Australia



# Foreword

# Yearbook



The progress of Australia's regions is becoming increasingly prominent within our national conversation. There is a growing demand for high quality information from a wide range of organisations, including regional authorities, government agencies, academic institutions and commercial consultancies. While much of this interest has been in the economic progress of Australia's regions, there is also an increasing and complementary focus on other equally important indicators that provide a broader view of regional transitions.

The new *Progress in Australian Regions Yearbook 2014* (Yearbook) responds to this changing demand. The Yearbook is part of the *Progress in Australian Regions* series produced by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. The Yearbook provides consistent information about change across all Australian regions. It is an important contribution to improving understanding of the trend and progress of Australia's regions.

The progress indicators presented in the Yearbook chart the development of Australia's regions over time. These indicators will help answer important questions about the progress of Australia's regions in the four critical domains of economic, social, environmental and governance activity. They are complemented by indicators which provide a context to help interpret the trends within regions.

The Yearbook reveals regional trends and patterns that are often hidden when national trends alone are examined. It provides a statistical resource that will help governments, private organisations and the community identify trends that are important for informed policy development and investment decisions.

I am confident that this valuable resource will significantly inform one of our most important national conversations.

**Mike Mrdak**  
Secretary  
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development  
December 2014