



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Yearbook 2015

Progress in Australian Regions



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Foreword

Yearbook



This second edition of the *Progress in Australian Regions – Yearbook* builds on the success of last year’s inaugural regional statistical handbook.

The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development is producing this new statistical resource to chart the development of Australia’s regions over time. The aim is to provide policy makers, regional development agencies, businesses, industry, investors, community groups, individuals and other stakeholders with information that could answer the question of how our regions are progressing against measures of economic, social, environmental and governmental well-being.

The first edition of *Progress in Australian Regions – Yearbook* was well received by stakeholders, who noted the value of regional statistics to policy making, investment decisions, advocacy and planning for local economic development. This second edition provides updated information on the same set of indicators, allowing for a consistent means of measuring progress over time.

The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development has been responsive to feedback provided by stakeholders. Most notably, the 2015 Yearbook includes an expanded set of geographies which allow for the measurement of progress at a more detailed level in outback Australia.

We look forward to further feedback in 2016, which will be incorporated into future editions of the Yearbook.

Mike Mrdak

Secretary

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

December 2015