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Foreword

Making the Change – New Thinking and Bold Ideas

Suggested Citation: Queensland Policy Forum (2020) Making the Change - New Thinking and Bold Ideas: Long-term post COVID-19 Strategy and Policy Initiatives for the Development of Queensland and Its Regions, Supporting Document, Brisbane.

An extract from a Policy Position Paper which was produced for the Queensland government by 26 senior members of professions linked to sustainable and regenerative development.

“Pandemic crises, like COVID-19, create huge disruptions and distortions and can trigger enormous economic, social, and technological change. To limit the extensive adverse impacts from the current and future economic and social crises that will follow the health crisis, and to emerge strongly, preparations are needed by government to develop policies, strategies, and programs that are not necessarily orthodox. This applies to the ongoing challenges of growing the economy, addressing inequity, addressing environmental degradation and climate change, and recovering from the recent natural hazards in the State.

“This Policy Position Paper examines what the ‘new norm’ may look like, and it proposes policy ideas to effectively meet the challenges presented. It has been prepared by a group of active semi- and retired government, academic and business professionals who meet regularly in Brisbane to address urban and regional development issues, and who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the discussion. A separate Supporting Document elaborates on the details in this paper, including descriptions of concepts, examples of policy initiatives and references.

“A clear impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and is that significant changes will occur in the way we live, work, communicate, socialise, trade, run businesses and government in Australia, and indeed, around the world. Potentially, the crisis also presents a ‘golden opportunity’ to adopt innovative approaches to enable us to reassess and to adopt a more collaborative and inclusive model of development to change the way we could:

- rebuild the economy;
- have a more equitable society; and
- better manage the environment.

“The paper has been developed with these over-arching goals and objectives in mind to achieve sustainable and regenerative development by pursuing a ‘quadruple-bottom-line’ approach to improve the well-being and quality of life of people and communities. It is critical to reduce the growing risk of inequities between the ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’.

“Consistent with that integrated approach would be to take initiatives to rely less on measuring development success in terms of GDP to also incorporate performance on measures of well-being and environmental outcomes in evaluating progress.

“COVID-19 pandemic impacts have revealed how globally connected and vulnerable we are as a State to the world economy and the structural economic weaknesses and deficiencies, such as the gaps in supply chains, with closures of trading partners’ borders and their stopping access to critical medical, energy, and other supplies. Solutions include the need to diversify, re-engineer, and expand the internal economy to produce critical supplies locally through structural re-orientation.

“Institutional innovation encompassing regulatory and procedural reforms, including the State’s planning and industrial relations (IR) systems, can also be considered. A focus, particularly at the regional level, on inclusive engagement ‘bottom-up’ approaches will be appropriate and beneficial to more widely engage business, NGOs, and community-based organisations in policy development and implementation, to minimise transaction costs.

“The Prime Minister has flagged Australia’s need to become a more self-sufficient nation in line with a global shift to streamline and restore economic sovereignty for crucial supplies and services.

Possible responses include: “MAKING THE CHANGE - NEW THINKING AND BOLD IDEAS

- Onshoring and support to develop strategic endogenous growth industries;
- strengthening governance arrangements for greater localisation and delivery of goods and services;
- shortening industry supply chains and production systems.

Changes to generate wealth will necessitate identifying and embarking on strategies to:

- regenerate existing jobs, building on assets, endowed resources and existing core competencies and competitiveness for the State and regional economies; and
- generate new jobs, and significantly enhance national and/or regional self-reliance.

“The unfortunate reality of the COVID-19 crisis is that the changes necessary to restore the State to economic, social and environmental prosperity, and to ensure benefits are distributed equitably, will have to be made in the face of profoundly deleterious economic and social impacts, destroying lives, businesses, and livelihoods across the State. Repairing the widespread damage and overcoming these adversities facing society will be long and costly. The financial challenges alone are immense and complex. Post COVID-19 will see Queensland burdened with unprecedented levels of debt for generations, much of it falling disproportionately on those who can least afford the additional burden - the poor, the young and the marginalised. Strategies to meet those obligations by increasing public revenues need to be balanced while accommodating additional funding calls to rebuild the economy, set it on new paths, and provide the social programs and support needed for an equitable society.

“Overall, the complexities of the issues are enormous, and the solutions to ensure the road to recovery of the State and regions are sustainable, will require new thinking and bold ideas which take us beyond the present and immediate concerns to build a platform for a more prosperous, resilient, and stable future. The Action Plan looks closely at some of these solutions.”

Corona Virus: Protecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

The Australian Government is investing \$3.3 million to establish a rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) Remote Point of Care Testing Program for remote and rural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Under the program, people will benefit from testing times being cut to around 45 minutes. This will be a game-changing improvement for areas such as the Kimberley where receiving a test result can currently take up to 10 days.

Once fully rolled out, there will be 83 testing sites in place across Indigenous communities most at risk, and most in need.

The sites are being carefully selected, in partnership with key stakeholders including services and state and territory authorities, to ensure there is coverage across remote Australia.

Sites will be confirmed rapidly as part of the rollout over coming weeks, with the aim to finalise rollout by mid May.

The test, called the Xpert SARS-CoV-2 test, uses rapid technology to detect COVID-19 infections at the point-of-care by using a nasal swab polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test in the early phases of the illness.

Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, said that the program would allow local health services to respond quickly and decisively if COVID-19 was identified in their communities.

“It’s vital we do all we can to protect our rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This world first testing response means we can continue to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to fighting this virus,” Minister Hunt said,

“If an outbreak is detected, local health services can move quickly to protect the community and activate established evacuation procedures.

“The rollout of program will include funding for the purchase of machines, as well as the logistics, transport, training, software support, quality assurance, data reporting and communications for all 83 sites.”

Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt, said the new testing program would help keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities safe during the pandemic.

“Sadly, Indigenous Australians are more likely to suffer from a serious illness if they contract COVID-19. There are higher rates of chronic conditions and other health issues in these communities and it can be hard to access health care,” Minister Wyatt said

“This means that an outbreak of COVID-19 in an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community has the potential to be very serious. This testing program will help protect Indigenous Australians against the virus.”

“The program is an initiative of the Kirby Institute, in partnership with the Flinders University International Centre for Point of Care Testing.”

“It has been developed in close consultation with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and states and territories, which are actively involved in site selection and assessment to ensure no community is more than two to three hours’ drive from a testing facility.”

Minister for Regional Health, Mark Coulton said the program complements a range of new initiatives the Australian Government has put in place to help protect all rural and regional Australians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Already there are over 260 respiratory clinics across Australia,” Minister Coulton said.

“We have also rapidly expanded access to telehealth, providing more than 3.3 million services to over 2.5 million patients since mid-March 2020 and provided infection control eLearning to close to 500,000 people.

“We are urging people with chronic health conditions to not neglect their regular health care and to continue to see their GP or specialist about the management of their conditions. This is now easier and can be done from home via the phone as part of the new telehealth measures.”

In addition, the Government has invested in Community Preparedness across 110 communities to ensure all Aboriginal community clinics are ready to respond in the face of this pandemic.

This response is part of the Australian Government’s fast tracked \$2.4 billion COVID-19 National Health Plan announced by the Prime Minister on 11 March 2020.

<https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/world-first-rapid-covid-19-testing-to-protect-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-communities>

ANZRSI 44th Annual Conference 2020

The 2020 ANZRSI Conference is planned to be held in Melbourne, 1-4 December. There will be two Best Paper Awards at the conference, sponsored by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics. The first award is for the Best Paper presented at the conference. The second award is for the Best Paper presented by a Student. There is a small cash grant given to the winners. Further details can be downloaded from the ANZRSI homepage, or by following the following links: [Best Conference Paper](#) and [Best Conference Paper by a Student](#).

The conference planners will consider the need to avoid exposing participants to the Coronavirus. The details will be provided later this year.

Commentary

Regional Innovation

The Rural Economies Centre of Excellence

<https://www.ruraleconomies.org.au/regional-innovation/ag-tech-innovation/>

Our core research question:

“How best can innovation, integration, collaboration and a strategic multidisciplinary approach to industry, community and regional development deliver a thriving and internationally competitive rural economy?”

“RECoE is a first-of-its-kind rural economic research collaboration comprised of four Queensland Universities: The University of Queensland, James Cook University, Central Queensland University & the University of Southern Queensland.

“Established with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in 2018 for an initial 3 year period with combined funding of \$3.6m, the centre divides its research portfolio into five themes: economic tools and analysis, regional innovation, value chain analysis, policy development; and translation & engagement.

“Each of these themes have research projects based on topics and locations relevant to regional Queensland and have been designed to have impact beyond their case studies and regional locations.

- Policy Development
- Economic Tools
- Translation and Engagement
- Value Chain Resources

Contact: ben.lyons@usq.edu.au
PO Box 123, 12 West St, Darling Heights QLD 4350
University of Southern Queensland
West St, Darling Heights QLD 4350
Mon - Fri: 9:00am - 5:30pm
Sat - Sun: Closed

From the Regional Australia Institute

New initiatives to support regions

By Liz Ritchie, CEO, Regional Australia Institute (RAI)

At the RAI, we constantly discuss the fact that regional Australia is changing, yet we could never have prepared ourselves for how significant that change might be with COVID-19 now upon us. Many regional businesses, both big and small, will be hurting and looking for points of connection, clarity and solutions.

Whilst the current uncertainty can and will create enormous challenges, we also believe it has the potential to create opportunities. The greatest ideas are often found in stillness and reflection. For the first time in our lives we will all be forced to slow down and this may provide the space and clarity to reconsider not only how we live and work, but where we live and work.

The notion that “working remotely” is now common practice for many Australians finally creates the kind of level playing field that the RAI has been discussing since our inception. As a central voice for regional Australia, our role is to remain a steady source of information, hope and optimism. Over the next few months, we will be introducing a diverse range of new initiatives, including:

- Regions Rising Webinar Series
- Regional Economic Updates from our Chief Economist
- Regional Migration Education Platform and Podcasts
- Regional Roundtables – Multi-Sector and Industry-Specific
- Regional Surveys
- Ministerial Updates

So, to continue our role as the nexus between government, industry and regional stakeholders, we need your continued engagement. Therefore, our ask is that you share your stories and your lived experiences, whether through our direct email at info@regionalaustralia.org.au or through our webinars, surveys, website or social media channels. We want to hear from you and we want to help.

This is an uncertain period, but we will come through this together, stronger and more agile than ever before. Regional Australians are no strangers to living through adversity. We also understand the power of people to be your greatest differentiator for recovery.

Regional Australia Council: A NEW VOICE FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA – RAC2031

Blogs March 24 2020

In May, the RAI will launch the Regional Australia Council 2031, or RAC2031 as it is otherwise known. This Council is the first of its kind with a strong focus on supporting regional prosperity.

RAC2031 gives corporate Australia a vehicle to support the development and investment of our regions in a collaborative way that will enhance the lives of one-third of our population. This is an opportunity to create a lasting legacy and our current partners are committed to this.

So why have we created this?

At the RAI National Summit in Canberra last year, more than 250 regional stakeholders endorsed our ambition to change the narrative of regional Australia.

Our research and engagement with people across the country over the last eight years has also confirmed the need for significant societal shift – to encourage more Australians to live, work and invest in regional Australia.

The RAI is currently developing a new vision for regional Australia, which includes the development of a National Awareness Campaign to promote the opportunities it has.

To be successful, this campaign will require input from all sectors. Corporate Australia will be a key group in advancing a pathway forward for regional Australia.

This forum will listen to organisations that have genuine care for, and impact in regional Australia. This does not function as a lobby group, but rather as an action-based model to support the work of the RAI and in turn regional Australia.

Key government representatives, including the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and Ministers with regional responsibilities, as well as the Opposition, will be invited to engage with RAC2031 and provide feedback and direction.

As COVID-19 grips the country, people need hope, they need strong leadership and the assurance that there is light at the end of the tunnel. At the RAI, we will work to ensure our campaign will deliver on that.

Over the next few weeks, we will announce the members of RAC2031. Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Michael McCormack will officially open its first meeting in May. Watch this space!

For all media enquiries, please contact:

Amanda Barwick

M: 0429 142 232

E: amanda.barwick@regionalaustralia.org.au

[Sign up to our quarterly Regional Aus News](#) to make sure you've got your finger on the pulse of regional Australia.

From CEDA

From Dr Stephen Kirchner

University of Sydney, United States Studies Centre, Trade and Investment Program Director, Dr Stephen Kirchner, says that the COVID-19 crisis emphasises the link between Australia's global integration and productivity growth. As such, he argues that re-establishing Australia's international connectedness after the crisis should be a key priority for policymakers. Follow the link.

https://www.ceda.com.au/Digital-hub/Blogs/CEDA-Blog/April-2020/What-COVID-19-means-for-Australian-productivity?utm_source=Members&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=CEOMessageApril27

From John Martin and Jerry Courvisanos

Dr John Martin, Emeritus Professor La Trobe University (Phone: +61421 584 313. Skype: john.martin56) and Jerry Courvisanos (+61 0407 485 860) note that VURRN members might be interested in two recent indices regarding Covid-19 impacts.

- University of South Australia's Andrew Beer et al's *Economic Vulnerability Index* and
- Newcastle University's Bill Mitchell's *Employment Vulnerability Index*.

Both Beer and Mitchell draw from ABS statistics. Beer has identified specific places but Mitchell has not, as far as I can see. Unfortunately, both have the same acronym.

Jerry Courvesano has been interviewing Queensland Local Government CEOs listed in Beer's Economic Vulnerability Index. Interestingly, those categorised as least vulnerable highlight the impact of the closure of 'population serving industries' (cafes, restaurants, gyms, etc) (see Stimson) on overall community concern. It is interesting how the economic impact on the 'marginal workforce' is a powerful influencer on those in the established 'engines of growth' (e.g. agriculture, mining, etc.) and those 'enabling industries' (machinery suppliers etc) in our regional communities.

In November it would be interesting to hear from VURRN members how communities addressed issues of individual motivation and satisfaction During the Covid-19 crisis. The prediction is these nasty viruses will continue to pop up in the future. So, what are the strategies that build community resilience?

For more on the Economic Vulnerability Index see <https://phys.org/news/2020-04-australian-cities-biggest-economic-covid-.html>

From the Productivity Commission

Trade and Assistance Review 2018-19

Key points

- Australian Government net assistance to industry fell for most sectors of the economy from 2017-18 to 2018-19.
- Net industry assistance was \$12.1 billion (consisting of about \$2 billion tariff output assistance, \$4.5 billion in budgetary outlays and \$7.4 billion in tax concessions, less \$1.7 billion in tariff input penalties), down from \$12.6 billion in the previous year.
- The decline is the continuation of a long-term reduction in assistance for the manufacturing and agriculture industries, which commenced in the 1970s and mostly stems from lower import tariffs. As a result, Australia has become a more globalised and competitive economy, generating vast benefits for consumers.
- Budgetary assistance (through direct outlays or tax concessions) has grown in recent years, from \$9.1 billion in 2013-14 to \$11.8 billion in 2018-19, driven mostly by new tax concessions for small businesses. Overall, most budgetary assistance is provided to the services sector (which makes up over 80 per cent of the economy) or is unable to be allocated to any particular sector.
- The Commission has highlighted four areas where domestic industry assistance has increased over the past year.
 - Defence procurement from domestic industry has risen, but lacks transparency about costs and a clear policy framework explaining its benefits.
 - Assistance to farmers and farm businesses expanded further with the continued drought and stresses of severe flooding in North Queensland.
 - Government investment in private projects continues to proliferate, carrying with it risks to the Australian taxpayer.
 - Concessions in Australia's alcohol tax system widened further after the introduction of new supports for craft brewers, adding to an already complicated system.
- Progress on international trade policy has faltered.
- Multilateral and plurilateral agreement negotiations continue, but are slow, with few prospects for their timely finalisation.

- One of the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) key functions, dispute resolution, has ceased because judges have not been appointed to the Appellate body, severely compromising the WTO's role. A temporary dispute body has been set up by 17 members (including Australia).

The National Water Reform Inquiry: Productivity Commission

Under the Water Act 2007 (Cth), the Commission is required to undertake three-yearly inquiries into the progress of reform in Australia's water resources sector. This is the second such inquiry. It will look at the progress of all Australian governments in achieving the objectives, outcomes and timelines of reform directions proposed in the 2004 Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Water Initiative (NWI). Practical advice will also be provided on ways in which the NWI might be improved.

National Water Reform Issues Paper has been released.

<https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/water-reform-2020/issues>

The Commission has released an issues paper to assist individuals and organisations to prepare submissions to the inquiry. It contains and outlines:

- the scope of the inquiry
- the Commission's procedures
- matters about which the Commission is seeking comment and information
- how to make a submission.

Further information is available from the [inquiry's web page](#)

Media, Publications and Web | Productivity Commission | 03 9653 2244 | mpw@pc.gov.au | www.pc.gov.au

From the Cockatoo Network

By courtesy of Rod Brown, Cockatoo Network, Canberra ACT Australia
WE CONNECT THE DOTS, 02 – 62317261 or 0412 922559, apdcockatoo@iprimus.com.au
(Rod Brown is a former senior government official in the industry, regional development and construction fields. He now runs the Cockatoo Network and is a federally-registered lobbyist.)

Positive spin-offs from a global crisis

Nothing like a crisis to bring out the best in people. And it extends to our national and state government leaders who have been exemplary in their bipartisanship and in keeping us reliably informed of COVID-19 developments. Victorian Premier Andrews really has shone with his no-nonsense TV grabs. And the National Cabinet has been an outstanding success.

Three spin-offs

A wonderful spin-off of the global turmoil has been our leaders getting into national self-assertion mode viz. introduction of a mandatory code of conduct on four US multinationals, calling for an independent review of the pandemic, sending a frigate into the South China Sea, seeking an independent enquiry into wet markets. This is smart when there's a leadership vacuum created by a lunatic in the White House.

Indeed the goss here is that the PM, Treasurer, Foreign Minister and Health Minister have an ‘understanding’ to take decisive leadership on the big issues, and to shape a more independent foreign policy framework. The mantra of being driven by ‘our national self interest’ is often heard. The ghosts of Fraser, Whitlam and Hawke would be pleased.

A second spin-off is the general acceptance of the necessary role of government in times of crisis. The expenditure commitments being made by the feds are eye-watering, and Treasurer Frydenberg has clearly no problem with this. He figures he has total absolution in the eyes of the corporate heavies who’d been singing hymns about balanced budgets and a low tax regime. My tip is that the looming big budget deficits will lead to a 15% GST – the states will keep the 10% but the 5% top up will go to federal coffers.

A third, related spin-off is a growing empathy for the simple things in life, and the need to shed the business and lifestyle excesses of the last three decades. Our political and business leaders are embracing the need to protect the unemployed, the disadvantaged and those in the so-called ‘discretionary expenditure’ industries like hospitality, tourism and the arts. However the way forward is unclear, especially since the feds have declared that many in the arts field are not eligible for Jobseeker payments.

Arts and culture

Last month the Federal Government announced a \$27 million support package for the arts in response to COVID-19, which has shut down gatherings and arts events across the country - \$10 million for regional artists and organisations, \$7 million for Indigenous artists and arts centres, and \$10 million for the industry charity Support Act.

But the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA) has accused the Government of being missing in action given that thousands of freelance and casual performers and crew are denied access to the JobKeeper subsidy. MEAA Chief Executive Paul Murphy said ‘the Arts and Recreation sector has 47% of businesses still trading, while the figure for Media and Telecommunications is 65% – the lowest of all 17 trading sectors. It is hard to comprehend why the Government would, through inaction, seek to compound this damage.’

Other critics emphasise that the \$27 million is a far cry from the \$850 million live performance and support package called for in March, or the \$715 million announced recently for the aviation industry.

This is a complex issue because our creative folk do march to a different drum. Job security and hefty superannuation pay-outs aren’t their gig. They are nevertheless a core part of our personal and community wellbeing. Local government is in the middle of this, and it gets one thinking about it could help shore things up for artists at the local level. The following suggestions are offered:

1. Map capability. The creative class are not properly understood, and mapping their presence and inter-linkages would be a start. For example, in Sydney it’s the Rocks, Newtown and the inner west, Bondi and Surry Hills/Darlinghurst. In Perth, it includes Northbridge, Subiaco and Fremantle. In the regions, it’s funky places like Broken Hill and Alice Springs, and even fire-ravaged Cobargo. Arts tourism can help lead regional communities back into economic health.
2. Rejuvenate pubs and clubs. The pandemic has encouraged us to slow down and smell the roses. So let’s modernise our social venues by getting music and theatre into them. And wind back pokies – they’re anti-social.

3. Ramp up collaboration. The arts are close cousins of wine, food and tourism. Let's find projects that leverage collaboration between them.

Wilcannia – persistence and a trigger

Twelve years ago Central Darling Shire and RDA Far West were pitching for a \$2 million grant to refurbish the burnt out shell of building at the main cross road in Wilcannia. The components were an art gallery with studios, café, offices. It would entice tourists to stop, provide indigenous jobs, restore community pride. I scoped the project and loved every minute. Things drifted due to some sort of environmental/heritage issue, the very professional GM and his key staff were moved on, and the Council was sacked. All very sad.

I recently heard that the feds and NSW government each committed \$3.5 million to the project. The trigger was the fish kill on the Darling River, which apparently attracted 20 politicians to visit. The Shire Administrator had the plans in his draw.

Sports rorts to be an indelible reminder

The sports rorts scandal will hopefully leave an indelible reminder to politicians of the risks of trying to buy votes.

I have some sympathy with Senator Bridget McKenzie who has borne the brunt of the criticism. She is a pretty good operator by all accounts and she got caught up in the game. The practice is so widespread that to see Labor now seeking the high ground is a bit rich.

The sad part is that public expenditure on sports, leisure and arts infrastructure is central to the proper functioning of rural communities. Footy clubs, netball courts, tennis clubs, art galleries, swimming pools, gymnasiums etc. are where people meet, share information and gossip, and get a break from the drudgery of the drought and their financial worries. In an ideal world, the users of these facilities would pay for their purchase and maintenance.

The long-accepted rationale of federal involvement in sports funding is on community health and equity grounds, and to basically keep regional communities functioning on a reasonable level. However what has clearly happened with this rationale has been ignored or forgotten. Why else would anyone entertain North Sydney receiving federal funding for a swimming pool? But this is what happens when there are a reported 450 political advisers in Canberra who are pushing and pulling programs away from their stated objectives.

The nationwide outrage suggests that the Morrison Government might succumb to a Code of Conduct to control the behaviour of politicians and their staffers when they're disbursing various types of grants. But such a mechanism won't address the inherent problems with these grant programs, namely that they are a messy, piecemeal and time-consuming business. And it's not only a frustrating process for councils and community groups, but it often puts them in competition with each other. This is the antithesis of regional collaboration.

The real solution would be for the feds to exit this space altogether, and shift funds to state and local government. They have a better handle on their communities and could thus make a better fist of things. But we know this isn't going to happen. In this light, I would offer up two suggestions.

The first is that federal funding for community programs should in future be clearly limited to areas outside the capitals and regional cities. The cities have the populations, poker machines and state governments to look after themselves.

My second suggestion is that program criteria should give greater weight to alignment with the Strategic Plans and project priorities of local councils. This would help rein in political interference. However program flexibility would still be required for special circumstances or left field proposals - bushfires are of course a very special circumstance.

Funerals in the Bush

The Sunday Telegraph ran an interesting article recently quoting the \$10,000 cost of burying a body in Sydney. This is understandable I guess given the pressure on land. But a significant number of Sydneysiders grew up in the Bush, so why not return them to their roots? Likewise return them to the Wimmera, Darling Downs or wherever.

Perhaps we could channel the sentiments of Turkish leader Ataturk, when he made a promise to the families of Anzac soldiers - 'wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom.'

I rang a couple of funeral directors west of the Great Divide and it appears that funeral costs are 15-20% cheaper out there. You could have a tour of the hometown, enjoy a lamb roast afterwards at the local pub and stay the night.

Firefighting hubs?

A Cockatoo member in Neerim Junction (Vic) says the days of voluntary firefighters are coming to an end. He suggested to his local MP that government should consider establishing a number of regional professional firefighting hubs equipped with aerial and ground mobile firefighting equipment. In slack times they could be used for hazard reduction efforts.

This seems a worthy idea. We are thinking about making a submission to the upcoming Royal Commission into the bushfires, and these hubs could be the vehicle by which the indigenous experience in fire and land management translates into real jobs and career paths for indigenous people. Having teams of rangers operating out of such hubs makes intuitive sense.

Williamtown PFAs

The recent bushfires have arguably reduced the attractiveness of living in, and establishing businesses, in fire-prone areas.

But let's not forget the parallels with environmental contamination. The impact of poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) around Williamtown NSW has finally reached an important milestone with residents and the Commonwealth agreeing to an in-principle settlement. It's early days, but the enduring problem is that the affected land is worth little.

Our members in the region advise that the NBN roll out has also been halted and that significant industrial investments in such an otherwise highly attractive location have been shelved. PFA-affected sites are a worldwide problem, and it seems that the Williamtown experience is being watched because it's a precedent of sorts.

Vulnerable Communities

From Professors Andrew Beer and Terry Clower April 3, 2020 Adelaide, Newcastle, Washington, DC
Research pinpoints which Australian cities take biggest economic blow from COVID-19

In an international collaboration between the University of South Australia Business School, the Hunter Foundation Research Centre at the University of Newcastle and George Mason University in the Washington, DC researchers have pinpointed which Australian cities are most vulnerable to economic disruptions caused directly by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cities on the list are regional and largely dependent on industries such as tourism, hospitality and oil and gas mining.

Using an economic vulnerability index (EVI) devised to identify those communities that are likely to see the largest and most immediate negative effects on local economic activity and labour markets, the researchers believe leaders can use the results to better plan immediate support initiatives.

Executive dean of the UniSA Business School, Professor Andrew Beer says the EVI is specifically designed to identify localities where economic output and jobs are concentrated in particular industry sectors.

“Our examination of market indicators in the earliest days of this unfolding calamity, suggested that the sectors most likely to feel the first economic effects include hospitality and leisure, transportation, employment services (agencies), travel arrangements and oil and gas mining,” Prof Beer says.

“The work conducted by UniSA data analyst, Jacob Irving examined the relative concentration of these sectors in communities across the nation, revealing which communities are heavily exposed to job losses in these sectors.

“The results show that several of our communities are heavily exposed to multiple vulnerable sectors,” Irving says, “compounding the impacts of unemployment and loss of trade.”

Specialist researcher in Australian regional cities at George Mason University in the US, Professor Terry Clower, says it is not just the presence of vulnerable industries in these communities, it’s also a matter of overall economic diversity.

“Communities whose economy is dominated by just a couple of sectors, have little to fall back on when their key industries experience disruption,” Prof Clower says.

“Therefore, we’ve designed the EVI with data items that look at the proportion of total jobs in the local economy that are part-time as well as the nature of jobs in the region. This means we have a much clearer picture of the compound impacts.”

Based on the EVI, the communities most vulnerable to the immediate economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic include Chinchilla, Karratha and Airlie Beach-Cannonvale.

The cities that are comparatively resilient to this economic threat include Kyabram, Biloela, and Port Hedland, though the research team cautions that circumstances and vulnerabilities are changing.

Most Vulnerable Cities	Most Resilient Cities
Chinchilla Karratha	Kyabram Biloela
Airlie Beach - Cannonvale	Port Hedland
Sale Roma	Naracoorte Leeton
Gladstone Byron Bay Lakes Entrance	Griffith Forbes Mount Isa
Tannum Sands – Boyne Island Cairns	Emerald Gatton

“The EVI is not a measure of absolute vulnerability,” Prof Beer says.

“We need to be clear; this pandemic will affect every city and town in Australia and those impacts may change over the period of this crisis.

“Keeping up with economic impacts under rapidly changing conditions is particularly challenging, and many of these places have also felt the impact of Australia’s summer of bushfires.

“But there are ways places that are at risk can respond to these challenging times, Mayors, state governments and business leaders should be looking at ways to develop new markets and new industries, closely related to their existing strengths ,as part of a more diversified, but still globally competitive, industry base.

“For places like Roma, this might be in logistics, while Chinchilla could further develop its strength in agriculture.

“Lakes Entrance and Cairns need to plan now how they can hit the ground running when first local, and then international tourism starts to open up.

“One of our many challenges in developing an index to assess economic vulnerability to COVID-19 that is useful for policymakers and planners, is the speed at which the economic ground is shifting under our feet.

“Therefore, today’s release of the EVI is really version 1.0 and our team is already working on assessing how the index will need to be adapted as the economic effects of the pandemic continue to spread across the economy.”

To find the full list of cities and towns included in our analysis, please visit us at one of the following websites: <https://www.gpaled.com/case-studies> ; www.cra.gmu.edu

UniSA contact for interviews: Professor Andrew Beer: + 61 409 696 485;
Andrew.Beer@unisa.edu.au

George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis (CRA): Under the direction of Professor Terry Clower, CRA provides research and analytical services to local governments, businesses and other stakeholders focusing on economic, demographic, transportation, housing and fiscal trends and forecasts. stephenrmatchett@gmail.com. **Media** contact: Michèle Nardelli phone: +61 418 823 673 or +61 8 8302 0966. email: michele.nardelli@unisa.edu.au

THE CONVERSATION

Lockdowns, second waves and burn outs. Spanish flu's clues about how coronavirus might play out in Australia

May 22, 2020 11.27am AEST



Author: Jeff Kildea, Adjunct Professor Irish Studies, UNSW

Disclosure statement: Jeff Kildea does not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and has disclosed no relevant affiliations beyond their academic appointment.

Partners: UNSW provides funding as a member of The Conversation AU.

“Although history does not repeat, it rhymes. The story of how Australia - and particular the NSW government - handled Spanish flu in 1919 provides some clues about how COVID-19 might play out here in 2020.”

Read the story here:

https://theconversation.com/lockdowns-second-waves-and-burn-outs-spanish-flus-clues-about-how-coronavirus-might-play-out-in-australia-138429?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201629015644&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201629015644+CID_6610631f50b83945d994ae5159e7b814&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=Lockdowns%20second%20wave%20and%20burn%20outs%20Spanish%20flu%20clues%20about%20how%20coronavirus%20might%20play%20out%20in%20Australia

An Indigenous View of the Corona Virus:

Friday essay: voices from the bush – how lockdown affects remote Indigenous communities differently

May 15, 2020 6.01am AEST

Authors:

- Claire Smith, Professor of Archaeology, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Flinders University
- Amanda Kearney, Matthew Flinders Fellow, Professor of Australian and Indigenous Studies, Flinders University
- Anna M. Kotarba-Morley, Lecturer, Archaeology, Flinders University
- Christopher Wilson, Senior Lecturer, Flinders University
- Julian Grant, Professor of Nursing, Charles Sturt University
- Kellie Pollard, Research lecturer, Charles Darwin University
- Udoy Saikia, Associate Professor, College of Humanities Arts and Social Social Sciences, Flinders University
- Contributor: Jasmine Willika, Assistant researcher, Flinders University

https://theconversation.com/friday-essay-voices-from-the-bush-how-lockdown-affects-remote-indigenous-communities-differently-136953?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2015%202020%20-%201622115567&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2015%202020%20-%201622115567+CID_06e628959b4335cf8738217ae95d92bb&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=Friday%20essay%20voices%20from%20the%20bush%20%20how%20lockdown%20affects%20remote%20Indigenous%20communities%20differently

Coronavirus has changed our sense of place, so together we must re-imagine our cities



<https://images.theconversation.com/files/336600/original/file-20200521-102632-17f3yu4.jpg?ixlib=rb-1.1.0&q=45&auto=format&w=496&fit=clip>

May 25, 2020 6.02am AEST

Tony Matthews, Griffith University

“Is it time to re-imagine our fundamental relationship with cities?”

People bring cities to life. They interact, work, socialise and travel. Without this, cities are just collections of buildings and infrastructure.”

Read the article here:

https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-has-changed-our-sense-of-place-so-together-we-must-re-imagine-our-cities-137789?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2025%202020%20-%201631115669&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2025%202020%20-%201631115669+CID_667cead6cf2318cbadc3093de870a1b0&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=Coronavirus%20has%20changed%20our%20sense%20of%20place%20so%20together%20we%20must%20re-imagine%20our%20cities

Contact tracing apps: a behavioural economist’s guide to improving uptake

From John Hawkins, Ben Freyens, University of Canberra



April 30, 2020 11.40am AEST

https://theconversation.com/contact-tracing-apps-a-behavioural-economists-guide-to-improving-uptake-137157?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201609515438&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201609515438+CID_2c02df2455ed307ebfae4cd2be07732a&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=Contact%20tracing%20apps%20a%20behavioural%20economists%20guide%20to%20improving%20Ouptake

Regional Activities

Saving Native Fish in the Murray Darling Basin

The “Thinking Fish – Saving Native Fish in the Murray Darling Basin” seminars were held at the Charles Sturt’s Dubbo campus, on February 25, and at the Wagga Wagga campus, March 12. These two public events were supported by the Murray Darling Basin Authority that focuses the plight of native fish in the region, and OzFish Unlimited that promotes sustainable fishing and protecting native fish and habitat across Australia. The speakers are experts in their fields and were able to highlight the current challenges and opportunities for fish within regional and rural communities along the vast Murray Darling river system. Interesting keynote topics include ‘*Flow, habitat and connectivity: three pillars of fish recovery*’ and ‘*What were the Darling and Macquarie rivers like in droughts 100 years ago and can it help us manage rivers better now?*’ Altogether these events attracted about 105 attendees.

Read more at https://cdn.csu.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/3414754/Connections-57.pdf

Secret Life of Tasmanian Devils Captured

An interesting animal science report by Ethan James was published in The Canberra Times on 6 April 2020 about the secret life of Tassie devils. The report was based on a study conducted in the University of Tasmania by an expert group of scientists including Dr Georgina Andersen. She told that “We’ve gotten a sneak-peak into their (Tasmanian devils’) lives and can see what they’re up to when a human isn’t watching”.



A Tasmanian devils with camera attached holding by Dr Andersen to have captured insights into their behaviour and interactions [Source: Ethan James, <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/>; 6 April 2020]

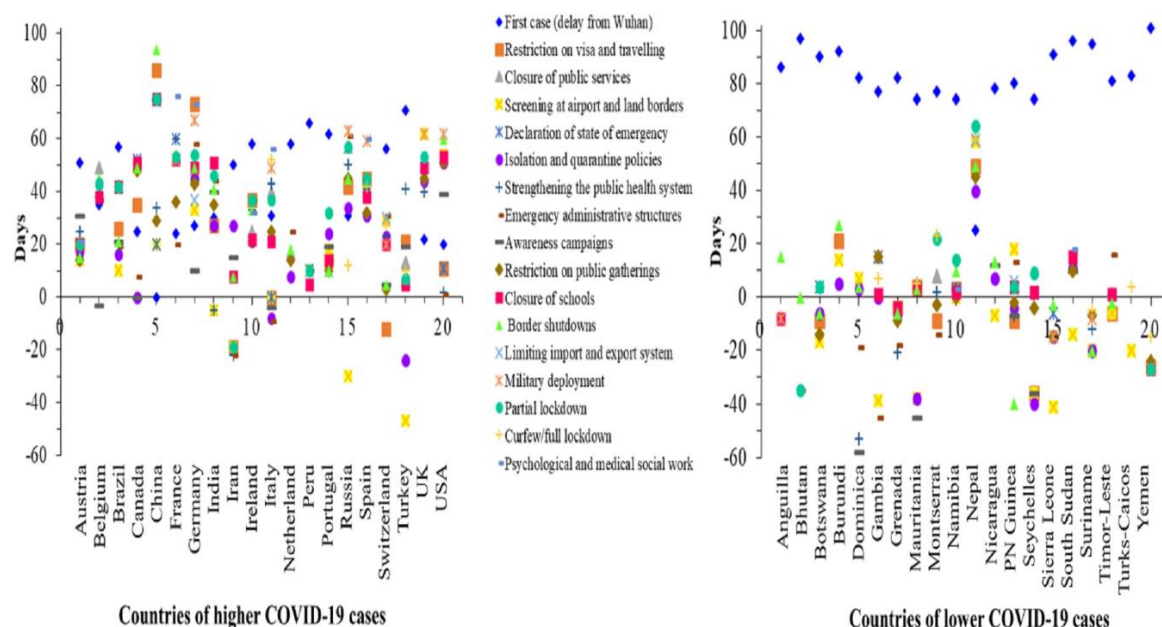
A rare footage of a Tasmanian devil hunting prey is part of 144 hours of video which sheds new light on the marsupial's behaviour. Cameras on special collars were fitted to a handful of devils in the state's remote northwest for a research in the University of Tasmania. According to Dr Andersen who is biological scientist, the 10 kilogram male chased and latched onto the leg of a rabbit or small pademelon in a livestock paddock, and it was a bit of a Holy Grail moment for me - it's what I really wanted to capture.

Tasmania devils population has been under a severe terminating risk due to a deadly facial cancer. Researchers hoped that the vision of social interactions between devils can help in the battle against the deadly facial tumour disease which is prolific in the species. The cancer is spread between devils by biting. So, a better understanding of the frequency and location of biting discovery will help predict the spread of the disease, and perhaps save lives. This report and related research published in PLOS ONE might be of interest to many readers.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6713981/secret-life-of-tasmanian-devils-captured/?cs=14231#gsc.tab=0>

Which COVID-19 Pandemic Prevention Measures Work?

Australian regional university research assessed a range of measures implemented by governments to control the COVID-19 pandemic to evaluate their value in containing the situation, and determine what works best?



[Image: source from author Azizur Rahman at Charles Sturt University (used under a Creative Commons License at <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.09.20096255>).]

With the surge of the COVID-19 pandemic, a large number of people died worldwide in the past several months, and continue to die, and the situation is ongoing with increasing health, social and economic panic and vulnerability. Due to the lack of effective drugs, including vaccines and

prophylaxis against COVID-19, most countries are now relying on maintaining social distance and hand washing as principal preventative actions. However, social distancing can create a global socio-economic crisis – for example, due to suspension of inter-regional and international travel and tourism – and psychological disorders, so there is a need to assess these control measurement to evaluate their value in containing the situation.

A research team led by Azizur Rahman at Charles Sturt University used data from more than 100 countries and analysed the outcome of COVID-19 responses to different control measures, health care facilities, and prevalent diseases. The study revealed a range of interesting findings which include:

- COVID-19 deaths could be reduced by the early initiation of preventative measures and by the provision of increased medical personnel and hospital beds.
- The case fatality rate (CFR) of COVID-19 was substantially lower in countries with higher life expectancy.
- No association between the comorbidities and severity of COVID-19 except for few diseases (e.g. asthma, cancer, alzheimer disease, and smoking), which warranted further investigation at the patho-biological level.
- Notably, countries including Gambia, Nicaragua, Burundi, Namibia, and Nepal, have a marked rise in their state of danger with rapidly increasing prevalence of deaths and risk of social unrest, as was the case in Turkey and now in Brazil.

The research findings could be useful in developing a well-informed outbreak management strategy in COVID-19 and other pandemics at the regional, state and global levels.

<https://news.csu.edu.au/latest-news/which-covid-19-pandemic-prevention-measures-work>

CONFERENCES and STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

ANZRSAL 2020 Conference

The ANZRSAL 44th Annual Conference will be held in Melbourne, 1-4 December 2020. As noted above there will be two Best Paper Awards at the conference, sponsored by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics. The first award is for the Best Paper presented at the conference. The second award is for the Best Paper presented by a Student. There is a small cash grant given to the winners. Get your papers ready.

LIVEABLE CITIES CONFERENCE: WEBINAR SERIES 2020

DIGITAL ACCESS, ENGAGING SPEAKERS & LIVE Q&A OPPORTUNITIES

WEBINAR 1 | Discovering Best Practices Through the
Lens of Case Studies. 9 June 2020 10:00am - 12:30pm

WEBINAR 2 | Long Term Planning with Communities in
Mind. 16 June 2020 10:00am - 12:30pm

WEBINAR 3 | Liveable Communities Through
Engagement, Culture & Connection. 23 June 2020
10:00am - 12:30pm

Regional Studies Blog

Professor Paul Dalziel, Executive Officer, ANZRSAL has recommended the Regional Studies Association Blog, which has been running since 2010. Each post is an easy-to-read piece between 500 and 750 words on a topical issue in regional studies.

The link is <http://blog.regionalstudies.org/> Here are links to two recent topics:

How monopoly tech makes left-behind places

Authored by Simona Iammarino, Maryann Feldman, and Frederick Guy

<https://www.regionalstudies.org/news/how-monopoly-tech-makes-left-behind-places/>

Brexit, Foreign Corporations and Early Regional Impacts

Authored by Crispian Fuller Spotlight: An in depth look at key issues for regional studies License:

<https://regions.regionalstudies.org/ezone/article/brexit-foreign-corporations-and-early-regional-impacts/?doi=10.1080/13673882.2018.00001054>

State Library NSW – Fellowship

The State Library of NSW is offering \$116,000 in paid fellowships for 2021.

Applications for a suite of prestigious fellowships, many of which are supported by private benefactors, are open now.

Applications close: 17th July 2020.

For further information please visit the website - <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about-library/fellows-and-residents>

**CURRENT RESEARCH
ABSTRACTS**

ANZRSAL Abstract Alerts

To contribute to ANZRSAL Abstract Alerts email the editor a title, abstract, and citation.

From Joseph Drew: Joseph.Drew@uts.edu.au

***Checks and Balances in Centralized and
Decentralized Planning Systems: Ontario,
British Columbia and Israel***

Abstract: My study aims to identify checks and balances in planning systems through a detailed examination of three systems, where rapidly growing urban regions are located. Ontario serves as a prime example for vertical checks on decentralized decisions, mainly via an appeal board and binding planning documents. Horizontal checks predominate in decentralized British Columbia (BC), demonstrating the crucial significance of restraint in decision-making within a balanced triangle of mayor/councillors, planning bureaucracy and community. Checks and balances in centralized Israel have been based on a three-level hierarchy of commissions and plans. The two more centralized systems – Israel and Ontario – are more susceptible to pressures for reform, but exhibit the multidirectional nature of reforms and path-dependent constraints on radical transformations.

To Cite: Razin, E. (2020). Checks and Balances in Centralized and Decentralized Planning Systems: Ontario, British Columbia and Israel. *Planning Theory and Practice*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649357.2020.1751251>

***Wellbeing Economics in Public Policy: A
Distinctive Australasian Contribution?***

Abstract. The ‘Wellbeing Budget’ presented to the New Zealand Parliament in 2019 was widely described as a world-first. This article explores the possibility of a distinctive Australasian contribution to our understanding of wellbeing economics in public policy. The introduction section presents an analytical wellbeing framework showing how human actions draw on services provided by the country’s capital stocks to create and sustain personal and communal wellbeing. The second section chronicles some landmark policy initiatives in Australia and New Zealand for understanding and monitoring wellbeing, culminating in the Wellbeing Budget. The third section highlights four areas for further development: (1) the role of family wellbeing in intergenerational wellbeing, (2) the role of cultural capital in providing foundations for future wellbeing, (3) the role of Indigenous worldviews in enriching understandings of wellbeing and (4) the role of market enterprise in expanding capabilities for wellbeing. These are all areas where Australasian researchers have demonstrated expertise.

To Cite: Dalziel, Paul. (2019). Wellbeing Economics in Public Policy: A Distinctive Australasian Contribution? *The Economic and Labour Relations Review*, 30(4): 478-497.

DOI

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1035304619879808>

***Financial and Social Well-being
Performance after Privatisation of the Port of
Brisbane: A Case Study***

Abstract: Available literature has failed to provide a satisfactory explanation to the contradiction between 'the theory of the firm' and 'stakeholder theory' predictions related to financial and social wellbeing performance of public versus private firms. Limited literature has evaluated the financial and social-wellbeing performance of privatised ports in Australia. This study investigates the potential impact of the privatisation of the Port of Brisbane Corporation (PBC) to the Port of Brisbane Proprietary Limited (PBPL) on its financial and social-wellbeing performance. Mixed methods research is employed following the theory of the firm, investigating the relationship between the change of ownership and financial and social-wellbeing performance of PBPL, under pre-and post-privatisation conditions. Firstly, quantitative methods are used to analyse secondary data from annual financial reports, comparing ratios between 2005 and 2017. Privatisation occurred during 2011 and this year was eliminated from the study as both ownership types existed. MANOVA will be used 'before and after privatisation' to test the null hypothesis, and subsequently to design open-ended questions for interviews of PBPL employees. MANOVA results did not support the null hypothesis, consequently, ANOVA and Tukey's posthoc tests were conducted, providing significant differences, with improved performance under privatisation. Findings from interviews provided explanations related to improvements the financial and social-wellbeing performance during private (2012-2017) compared to State

ownership (2005-2010). This study revealed private ownership, as posited by the theory of the firm, maximised profits, and following stakeholder theory predictions managed social well-being.

To Cite: Jayasundara, Mudiyanse Urali Ranjith; Jones, Greg; and Sands, John. (2020). Financial and Social Well-being Performance after Privatisation of the Port of Brisbane: A Case Study. *Australasian Accounting, Business and Finance Journal*, 14(2): 72-93. doi:10.14453/aabfj.v14i2.6

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14453/aabfj.v14i2.6>

***Checks and Balances in Centralized and
Decentralized Planning Systems: Ontario,
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Abstract: My study aims to identify checks and balances in planning systems through a detailed examination of three systems, where rapidly growing urban regions are located. Ontario serves as a prime example for vertical checks on decentralized decisions, mainly via an appeal board and binding planning documents. Horizontal checks predominate in decentralized British Columbia (BC), demonstrating the crucial significance of restraint in decision-making within a balanced triangle of mayor/councillors, planning bureaucracy and community. Checks and balances in centralized Israel have been based on a three-level hierarchy of commissions and plans. The two more centralized systems – Israel and Ontario – are more susceptible to pressures for reform, but exhibit the multidirectional nature of reforms and path-dependent constraints on radical transformations.

To Cite: Razin, E. (2020). Checks and Balances in Centralized and Decentralized Planning Systems: Ontario, British Columbia and Israel. *Planning Theory and Practice*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649357.2020.1751251>

Water utilities performance analysis in developing countries: On an adequate model for universal access

Abstract: The results of the analysis of water utility performance studies based on data envelopment analysis (DEA) can be very sensitive to the methodological approach and the variables employed. This study investigates approaches and variables for developing countries in order to identify an adequate model for universal access. Three models were developed and compared. The first used traditional variables, the second considered the quality of service variables, and the last are expanded on the second by incorporating the realization of the human right to water into efficiency estimation. Methodological approaches comprising the variable returns to scale DEA (most common for developing countries) and slack-based directional distance function (employed in this study) were also compared. The case study of 77 Brazilian water utilities suggests that a model that incorporates the objective of universal access in the efficiency estimation changes substantially utility efficiency scores. Therefore, utilities that make investments to reach the universal access can be penalized since traditional models incorporate the expenses, but fail to capture the results. The research conclusions suggest that approaches and variable choices are likely to impact on the analysis results, misrepresenting them regardless of the purpose for using DEA in the study.

To Cite: Cetrulo, T., Ferreira, D., Marques, R., and Malheiros, T. (2020). Water Utilities Performance Analysis in Developing Countries: On an Adequate Model for Universal Access. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 268.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2020.110662>

The Review of Regional Studies

Vol. 50, Issue 1, 2020
February 22, 2020. pp. 53 - 69

Estimating the Regional Economic Impacts of First Nation Spending in Saskatchewan, Canada

Omid Mirzaei, David C. Natcher and Eric T. Micheels

Abstract: It has been suggested that provincial and national multipliers may provide incorrect estimates of the economic impacts when examining distinct communities. Using data collected from a comprehensive survey of household spending on two First Nations in Saskatchewan, Canada, we use Input-Output models to refine regional multipliers for these distinct populations. We also estimate the rate of economic leakage and the economic impacts of First Nation spending. Results indicate that economic leakage rates for First Nation economies is roughly 90 percent; meaning that 90 cents of every dollar spent by First Nations for goods and services occurs off-reserve. Using our new multipliers, we find that First Nation spending contributes over \$741 million to Saskatchewan's GDP, creates approximately 11,244 full-time jobs, and leads to an estimated increase of over \$462 million in labor force income for the province. If policy makers intend to build on-reserve economies, strategies must be found to recapture off-reserve spending by providing comparable on-reserve goods and services. In the absence of on-reserve economic development, First Nation economic growth will likely remain stagnant with few wealth generating opportunities and lower standards of living for First Nation members.

<https://rrs.scholasticahq.com/article/12056-estimating-the-regional-economic-impacts-of-first-nation-spending-in-saskatchewan-canada>

Regional Science Policy and Practice

Volume 12, Issue 1 (February 2020)

The territorial fiscal gap in Columbia

Jaime Bonet-Morón, Jhorland Ayala-Garcia
Pages 25-42

First published: 23 July 2019

Abstract: This paper presents an estimation of expenditure needs and fiscal capacity of Colombia's municipalities and departments in 2014. We use standard *per capita* norms to estimate the spending needs and data envelopment analysis for the local fiscal capacity. The results show that: (i) there are high horizontal fiscal disparities in Colombia, with greater incidence in municipalities than in departments; (ii) these disparities favour more developed territories; and (iii) there is evidence of a centre-periphery pattern in the horizontal fiscal disparities, causing central regions of the country to have a lower imbalance between expenditure needs and fiscal capacity.

Regional funding and regional inequalities in the Brazilian Northeast

Luis Carlos De Santana Ribeiro, Renata De Melo Caldas, Kênia Barriero De Souza, Débora Freire Cardoso, Edison Paulo Domingues

First published: 05 August 2019

<https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12230>

Pages 43-59

Abstract: This paper investigates the impacts of a very important credit policy in Brazil called Northeast Financing Constitutional Fund (FNE in Portuguese) using a dynamic and inter-regional computable general equilibrium model calibrated for 2013. Simulations were carried out based on FNE investment data for 2014 and 2015, allowing for isolation of the effect of the funding on macro regions. Results indicate that FNE expenditures between 2014 and 2015 would

increase Northeast GDP by 3.51% by 2025. Estimates show a 0.46% decrease in regional inequality among Northeastern states measured by regional GINI. Results are compatible with the objectives of the fund, although the total effects, mainly on regional inequality, are quite modest.

Papers in Regional Science

Volume 99, Issue 2

Regional science in the Netherlands: A contextual interpretation of the “power of smallness”

Peter Nijkamp

First published 12 December 2019

Abstract: This paper provides an overview of regional science research in the Netherlands since the 1960s. It adopts a contextual thematic approach in identifying and interpreting regional science research topics, practices and methodologies, inspired by Toynbee's challenge and response concept. It argues that place-based, cultural and historical conditions in the Netherlands have prompted a pragmatic and evidence-based scientific approach, in which in particular an innovative quantitative orientation accompanied by a methodological heterogeneity has given Dutch regional science a high international profile. Over the past decades, numerous regional scientists in the country have contributed to this achievement, too many to be mentioned in this overview. This paper has its limitations and offers mainly thematic examples of original—often quantitative—research undertaken by various Dutch regional scientists, that make a difference compared to general approaches in Europe and world-wide. From our concise review we conclude that – despite the small size of the country – the challenge and creative response model of Dutch regional science has been rather successful. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12500>

The Regional Anatomy of Youths' Educational Attainment in Spain: The Role of the Employment Structure in Local Labour Markets

Luis Diaz-Serrano, William Nilsson

First Published: 18 May 2020

Abstract: This paper studies the link between the employment structure of local labour markets and the schooling choices of the youth in Spain. We construct a panel of Spanish provinces, and the effect of local labour markets was identified by using the variation in the share of employment by industry and gender across provinces and over time. A model with province fixed-effects and specific-slopes is used, which makes it possible to control for both time constant and time-varying unobserved heterogeneity across provinces. A sizable impact is found for both boys and girls of the industry structure of employment on educational attainment.

[This article has been accepted for publication and undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the Version of Record. Please cite this article as doi: 10.1111/pirs.12540]

Labor supply and the business cycle: The "Bandwagon Worker Effect"

Ángel L. Martín Román, Jaime Cuéllar-Martín, Alfonso Moral de Blas

First published: 16 May 2020

<https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12542>

Abstract: The relationship between labor force participation and the business cycle is a common topic in economic literature. However, few studies have examined if the cyclical sensitivity of labor force participation is influenced by social effects. In this paper, we construct a theoretical model defining a relatively new hypothesis, the Bandwagon

Worker Effect (BWE). We use spatial econometrics techniques to test the existence of the BWE in the local labor markets in Spain. Our results reveal a positive spatial dependence in the cyclical sensitivity of labor force participation that decreases as we fix a laxer neighborhood criterion, which verifies the existence of the BWE.

Doi: 10.1111/pirs.12542

Australasian Journal of Regional Studies

Vol. 26, No. 1, 2020

Survival of the Fittest? Challenges to Regional aviation and Regional Communities from the Privatisation of Australia's Airports

Dorothea Bowyer, Greg Jones, Graham Bowrey and Ciorstan Smark

Abstract: The privatisation of airports was intended to be positive for rural and regional Australia. Yet airlines and other airport users have expressed concern that airport operators are privately controlled monopolies (local councils) with little regard for the welfare of airport users and communities, taking a profit perspective in contrast to the provision of community services. This position is imposing greater challenges on regional aviation. There is evidence that government departments accept that there are significant economic benefits associated with development of regional areas; that accessibility for regional and remote communities is a matter of general equity and that they could assist airport operators to be more accountable and responsible for reducing their costs by efficiency gains. It is argued that government intervention is necessary to control the dominance of privatised airport operators, provide equity of opportunities, and safeguard the rights of least-advantaged citizens. Page 1.

Employment change in Mining and Manufacturing in Australia, 2010/11 – 2015/16: Dissecting the subnational patterns and concentrations

Shanaka Herath and Kankesu
Jayanthakumaran

Page 29

Abstract: This paper recognises Krugman's (1991) core-periphery model and analyses the reallocation of employment across the Australian metro and non-metro regions over the period 2010/11-2015/16. The differences were interpreted using shift-share analysis and industry-specific location quotients, and patterns of change and concentrations for mining and manufacturing are highlighted, given the significance of these industries during this period. The industry-specific location quotients suggest that there was a shift in relative concentrations of mining and manufacturing industries in non-metropolitan regions. The shift-share results are consistent and suggest that regional specialisation and regional competitiveness are characteristic of employment change in metro regions. In non-metropolitan regions, employment moved in line with the national effect. The causal factors that explain these employment disparities are the subject of on-going research.

[Seachange in Tasmania: Exploring interstate migration into the 'Apple Isle'.](#)

Nick Osbaldiston, Lisa Denny and Felicity Picken

Page - 55

Abstract: The quest for a better way of life is associated with the recent reversal of the historic trend of net interstate migration losses for Tasmania. In this paper, we examine data collected in 2019 through a survey with internal migrants who, were in the process of, or already had migrated to Tasmania. While in the past, the state has often experienced net internal migration loss, over the past five years this trend has reversed. We argue that one of the prevailing factors here is the quest for a better way of life. We identify that key motivators for these movements include the

climate, lifestyle and work/life balance that Tasmania is perceived to offer. While we stop short of arguing this is evidence of climate change affecting migration patterns in Australia, there is strong evidence that the heat of mainland Australia is driving migration to temperate parts of Australia, like Tasmania. However, further research is needed to make stronger correlations between rising temperature and migration.

[Water and Sanitation Program in decentralised eastern Indonesia: The roles of community and social dynamics](#)

Anggun Susilo, Yogi Vidyattama and Dewa Ayu Putu Eva Wishanti

Page - 77

Abstract: The recent decentralisation in Indonesia was expected to play a significant role in the development program aimed at addressing local issues, including water and sanitation. However, the lack of capacity of local governments could be a barrier to deliver adequate services. This study looks at policy implementation and how the community in the poorer regions of Eastern Indonesia are attempting to address water and sanitation issues. Specifically, this study aims to assess the implementation of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) type programs. Based on surveys, in-depth interviews and using qualitative methods this study identifies the main actors and their contribution in the programs. The result shows that despite the required active involvement of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and the local community, local governments still hold a very important role in service delivery, especially their frontline staff, who provide routine communication with the community. The active involvement of many stakeholders also requires that local government continuously enhance its coordination efforts. The discussion provides an example of one local government that has provided a good coordination platform. Additionally, the

findings suggest that financial assistance is still needed by poorer communities in implementing the program.

ABOUT ANZRSai

ANZRSai Council Notes

Council is planning for the 2020 conference in Melbourne, and improving access to and ranking of AJRS and the website. Conference participants gain access to support, encouragement and relevant experience. AJRS offers an opportunity for publication.

Roles of Council Members

Membership Secretary: Delwar Akbar

Council Secretary: Rolf Gerritsen

Correspondence Secretary: Yogi Vidyattama

Publications: Vince Mangioni or Lee Pugalis.

Conference Secretary: Paul Dalziel

Webmaster: Paul Dalziel

Conference Awards: Volunteer required.

Convenor: Contributed Paper: Paul Dalziel

Editors:

Conference Proceedings: tba assisted by Rolf Gerritsen.

Australasian Journal of Regional Studies: Bligh Grant (Executive Editor), Rolf Gerritsen, Khorshed Alam and Vincent Mangioni
Sustaining Regions - Tony O'Malley and Azizur Rahman

Accounts – Greg Jones

ANZRSai Council 2020

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Charles Darwin University

Vice President (Australia)

Delwar Akbar
Central Queensland University

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Conference Convenor

Bruce Wilson: RMIT, Melbourne

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Robyn Eversole: Swinburne University of Technology

Contact details:

Paul Dalziel, Executive Officer, ANZRSai
PO Box 236, Darling Heights QLD 4350.

Email: anzrsai@anzrsai.org

Website: www.anzrsai.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/anzrsai>