



Book Reviews

From the Research

Recently published research papers which may be of interest to regional development practitioners and policy makers.

Measuring Economies of Scale in Australian Local Government: The Case of Domestic Waste Collection in NSW

Australasian Journal of Regional Studies, Vol 8 No 2, 2002

Authors: Joel Byrnes, Brian Dollery and Anthony Webber.

While this paper examines economies of scale in waste collection, it has implications for the broader issues concerning local government amalgamations in Australia. As the authors point out, policy makers have generally seen amalgamation as a way of gaining greater efficiencies in local government. The research reported in this paper challenges this view, and indicates “resource sharing rather than amalgamation may represent the optimal policy instrument” for gaining efficiencies, at least in waste collection.

The paper develops a statistical model to estimate the impact of several variables on the average cost of waste collection. The authors note that there is some evidence for economies of scale in terms of bins collected, but caution policy makers that there are differences between metropolitan and rural councils. The paper concludes that cost reductions

in waste collection could be achieved through increasing the number of bins collected by each Council, but this could also be achieved by resource sharing.

Job Transfers and Regional Labour Migrants in New Zealand

Australasian Journal of Regional Studies, vol 8, no 2, 2002. Author: Martin Perry

This paper examines a little mentioned aspect of internal migration – the organisational labour migrant, or those people who move location but not employers. The paper uses surveys of major multi-locational employers to look at elements such as frequency and reasons for relocation. The paper concludes that a conservative 10-15% of internal migration in New Zealand is attributable to organisational labour migration.

The research indicates that the contribution of this type of migration may be reducing through a number of factors such as centralisation of business activities, changes in human resources practices, and growth in dual income households. The paper holds interest for regions where organisational moves have been important components of internal migration, and for regions hoping to attract businesses and their employees.