

ANZRSAI Newsletter

April 2011

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REGIONAL RESEARCH

Australasian Journal of Regional Studies: Abstracts Vol. 16, No. 2, 2010

Pp 151-181

In the Shadow of Federalism: Dilemmas of Institutional Design in Australian Rural and Remote Regional Governance

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ABSTRACT: Regional governance describes the structures, processes and relationships by which decisions are made, and power exercised and shared, at spatial levels larger than localities and smaller than the States in most parts of Australia. This paper reports on the first of three case studies examining the current nature and future evolution of regional governance, as part of an Australian Research Council Discovery Project. Focused on the rural and remote region of Central Western Queensland, the study confirms the significance and the potential of the 'region' as a spatial unit of governance, and both the importance and complexity of questions of institutional design for the future of Australia's regional level. It locates some of the strengths of regional governance, including the dynamic and responsive nature of informal partnerships, collaboration and networks, but also records the challenges flowing from human capital shortages, wider intergovernmental conflict,

problems of financial sustainability, and other issues including undeveloped frameworks for leadership and coordination. Identification of these challenges provides a basis for comparison with the governance of other regions, and exploration of more coherent, national policy solutions for resolving the place of the region in Australia's federal system.

[The wondrous complexity of regional systems]

pp183-202

Population and Employment Change in Australia's Functional Economic Regions

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ABSTRACT: This paper considers the issue of population growth and its impacts on employment change at a regional level. Specifically it addresses the question: _What are the associations between shifts in population share and shifts in employment share across regional Australia and are we witnessing shifts in employment associated with the widely observed shifts in population to the so-called sun-belt states? It attempts to answer this question by up-dating an earlier analysis using newly formed spatial units—functional economic regions (FERS)—and recent census data. It finds that while there is some broad aggregate associations between population growth and employment growth, once a sectoral analysis is undertaken, the linear association between population and employment changes is less clear-cut.

[Functional Economic Regions let the regional labour force decide where the regional boundaries are; a very promising idea.]

Pp203-216

Townsville: A Regional Development Case Study

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ABSTRACT: Townsville (including the adjacent Burdekin Shire (Ayr), Dalrymple Shire (Charters Towers) and Hinchinbrook Shire (Ingham) in North Queensland) has had significant regional development growth in population and in private and public sector physical infrastructure over the last 20 years. The question that interests us in this paper is: What can we learn, with the benefit of hindsight, about the drivers of the growth in private and public sector physical infrastructure in Townsville, over the last 20 years? This paper is based on primary data from open-ended-question interviews of regional development practitioners and policy makers in Townsville. We focus on: What has, and what has not worked; and we attempt to explain why we think that the successes have worked.

[The regional perspective on development drivers]

pp. 217-232

Local Infrastructure Investment, Maintenance and Renewal: A Comparative Analysis of Contemporary Australian and New Zealand Local Government

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ABSTRACT: The preservation and expansion of local infrastructure presents significant funding and management challenges for local government systems across the developed world. A useful way of approaching the local infrastructure question is to undertake comparative analysis of different local government jurisdictions with similar institutional characteristics. This paper accordingly considers the local infrastructure problem in contemporary Australian and New Zealand local government, which share many common institutional features, in the light of the recent deliberations of two national inquiries into local government finance in the two countries. It is argued that while both the intergovernmental grants system and the quantum of these grants differ significantly between the two nations, local government infrastructure in both countries requires urgent attention from policy makers and similar policy solutions can be identified.

pp233-252

Are the Rich Willing to Pay More for Beautiful Cities? Income effects on the Willingness to Pay for Aesthetic Improvements

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ABSTRACT: This study used the contingent valuation method to measure the amount that Metro Manila households are willing to pay (WTP) for an improvement in urban aesthetic values through the removal of billboards. A household survey was conducted to elicit WTP using the single-bound binary choice format. A measure of income elasticity was used to determine the effects of income on WTP, testing a hypothesis that higher income increases willingness to pay for urban aesthetic improvements. Results of the logistic regressions showed that income is a statistically significant determinant of WTP. Estimates of mean WTP ranged from PHP1,276 (USD29) to PHP1,416 (USD32), while income elasticity was estimated at 1.02 and 1.19, indicating that WTP for urban aesthetic improvements increases more than proportionally as income rises. This implies that programs aimed at improving city aesthetics are valued more by high-income households than low-income households.

Pp 253-265

An Investigation into the Social and Environmental Responsibility Behaviours of Regional Small Businesses in Relation to their Impact on the Local Community and Immediate Environment

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ABSTRACT: The modern concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR) involves the performance of companies in financial, social and environmental terms and includes the impact of business activities on various stakeholders, including local community and the immediate environment. Although small business enterprises hold a central position in the Australian economy and society, previous research about CSR has been mainly focused on large corporations. Small businesses should also contribute towards meeting the needs of current and future generations by embracing the principles of social and environmental responsibility. The researchers investigated the awareness and current social responsibility initiatives of small business owner/managers, and the challenges and opportunities of implementing CSR in small businesses in the regional area of Whyalla, South Australia - an industrial city and a hub of small business activity. The project was conducted jointly between the local campus of the University of South Australia and the Whyalla Economic

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Development Board (WEDB) and the findings will be used to enable the university and the WEDB to work towards enhancing the social and environmental responsibility of both business and society in the Whyalla region.

[How small retail and service businesses in a regional centre see their social responsibilities.]

Pp 267-277

Affordable Housing: What Role for Local Government?

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Richard Hil

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ABSTRACT: Housing affordability is a pressing social issue for many Australians with public housing stocks not coping with demand in recent years. Local government has a genuine capacity through partnerships with the other spheres of government as well as with private sector community housing and property developer interests, to play a key role in developing sound affordable housing strategies, partnerships and practical projects to deliver appropriate and affordable housing to those in need in local communities.

[Clarence Valley Council shows the way.]

Papers in Regional Science

March 2011 - Volume 90 Issue 1

Page 159 - 178

Agglomeration, vertical specialization, and the strength of industrial linkages

Jan Kranich

Abstract: Referring to the seminal model of Venables, this paper aims at quantifying the degree of vertical specialization in models of the new economic geography. The analysis is made in two steps. First, the paper develops a measuring concept for the strength of forward and backward linkages. As a main finding, the associated values only depend on the substitution elasticity between intermediate inputs as well as the corresponding share in downstream costs. In the second step, the Venables model is alternatively solved in order to determine the domain of vertical specialization and investigates its properties with respect to the strength of vertical linkages.

Regional Science Policy and Practice

Volume 3: Issue 1, March 2011

Pp37-44

A note on the relation between inter-regional inequality and economic efficiency: evidence from the US states

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Konstantinos Eleftheriou,

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Abstract. The principle aims of regional policy can be encapsulated in terms of spatial equity and economic efficiency. Establishing the relation between these two aims is of fundamental importance. Conventionally, however, it is assumed that there is a conflict (trade-off) between them. In this paper an alternative view is put forward; the two aims can be complementary rather than competitive. Its validity is examined empirically using data for the US States covering the period 1972-2005. The obtained results map an instructive framework for regional policy where the scope for reducing regional inequalities is not incompatible with improvements in economic efficiency.

JEL classification: R10, R11

Key words: Regional inequalities, national efficiency, US States

Recent Titles

Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics: Australian Infrastructure Statistics Yearbook 2011

Statistics on general transport, aviation, freight, intermodal, maritime, passengers, pricing and investment, projects and trends, rail, road, safety and security, land transport, regional transport

The Australian Infrastructure Statistics Yearbook 2011 provides a single comprehensive source of Australian infrastructure statistics time series statistics for measures of transport, energy, communications and water infrastructure and the use of this infrastructure in Australia.

For most variables the series are up to 2008-09 and for a few 2009-10 data are provided.

ISBN: 978-1-921769-14-6

Date of Publication: March 2011

The Success Factors – Managing change in regional and rural Australia.

Report commissioned by Regional Women's Advisory Council

ISSN 1444-9056 Published by the Department of Transport and Regional Services, 2001

Available at www.regional.gov.au

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REGIONS & PRACTICE

Regional Development Australia Fund

As part of the Government's commitment to Regional Australia, the Government has allocated \$1.4 billion in funding support to local communities. Of this, \$1 billion has been provided to the Regional Development Australia Fund (with \$573 million of this being subject to the passage of the Minerals Rent Resource Tax).

The Regional Development Australia Fund will fund projects that support the infrastructure needs, and will enhance the economic and community development, of Australia's regions. Program funds will maximise outcomes through effective partnerships across all levels of government, and the business and not-for-profit sectors. Regional Development Australia committees will play a key role in identifying projects to be supported, and confirming that proposed projects align with their Regional Plans.

The RDAF will operate from 1 July 2011.

The first funding round will open for applications when these Guidelines are released. The first round will look to contribute up to \$100 million of Commonwealth funding to approved projects. Applications will be received up to COB on Friday, 13 May 2011.

Proposals that are not ready or applications which cannot be completed by 13 May 2011 can be lodged in Round 2, which is expected to take place in late 2011. Advice on when Round 2 will open and close will be provided through Regional Development Australia committees and on the Department's website: www.regional.gov.au. Funding of between \$500,000 and \$25 million per project will be available.

Cockatoo Corner

RDA Fund update

The Regional Development Australia Fund guidelines were released last month for this \$1 billion five-year program. Federal Minister Crean says this is a new approach to unlocking the potential of Australia's regions via locally driven, creative solutions to regional needs. And he wants strong, well-researched, strategic applications for projects that stack up.

Well a new approach was certainly needed. Our advice to local councils is to take this seriously. Why? First, Crean's mantra about wanting creative, locally-driven solutions gives local stakeholders every right to seek a solid dialogue with him and

his department. And much of this should be face-to-face, not via written submissions. So don't be shy.

Secondly, there are 55 RDA Committees competing for the \$1 billion. It won't be divvied up exactly, but each region might expect roughly \$40 million in grants on the basis that a notional \$20m from the feds has to be matched by state, industry and perhaps council contributions. This formula and processes could become a permanent feature of the landscape – so best to get used to them!

Thirdly, the crying need - in rural Australia at least - is to find better ways of progressing good ideas. The stumbling block is the connectivity problem due to distance, cultural differences, federal-state competition, personal rivalries, lack of familiarity with the issues, forgetfulness and stuff-ups. So when Crean *et al* talk about joined up agendas, tearing down silos, reducing red tape and fostering collaboration, it makes sense for local folk to sign on to these ideals. Indeed, you might think about making some of your RDA Fund projects a best practice collaboration model that delivers benefits far greater than the federal grant.

BIG CONSTRAINTS – notwithstanding Crean's call for creative solutions, there is no RDA funding for working ideas up via scoping and feasibility studies – not a skerrick! A RDA spokeswoman has advised (5 April) that:

- RDA Committees, councils and other local stakeholders need to do the project scoping.
- the \$200k for feasibility studies for NBN-related projects was not a per RDA Committee figure (but for ALL of them!)
- RDA Canberra staff cannot work projects up with proponents due to legal advice associated with the competitive nature of the program.

Angles for RDA Fund projects

Putting the above ideals into context, Minister Crean says the RDA Fund will commit between \$500,000 and \$25 million per project. We forecast that very few projects will approach anywhere near \$25 million due to demands on the program and associated equity reasons.

Crean says the funding will be directed towards lifting work skills and productivity, maximizing the opportunity of broadband, sustaining our environment, promoting social inclusion and improving water and energy efficiency. Note too that they must also align with the RDA Plan for the region.

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What sort of projects might really win favour? We think projects with the following angles will be well regarded:

- Creation of sustainable jobs in small towns, especially in eco-tourism.
- Public infrastructure that facilitates globally-connected, value-added industries in rural regions e.g. cool stores.
- Reduction of obesity and alcohol abuse e.g. health and sports hubs.
- Better integration of migrants into communities.
- Indigenous projects that have a realistic chance of creating sustainable jobs.
- Youth mentoring e.g. buddy systems involving mature age workers and pensioners.
- Vehicles for improved community cohesion e.g. community centres, youth centres.
- Water and waste management e.g. pipelines, aquifer storage.
- Revenue streams for the National Broadband Network.

Be wary of seeking funding for the following:

- Roads and bridges - hard to make this innovative, and could be seen as cost shifting.
- Local airports - upgrades are critical in some regions to get bigger aircraft and lower airfares, but costs are usually high and it could reduce your prospects for other projects.
- Regional transport hubs - regions should NOT get suckered into these when there is a separate Department of Infrastructure and the Infrastructure Australia agenda.
- Education infrastructure - surely BER was enough - if not, go to DEEWR.
- Health infrastructure - don't get suckered here either.
- Manufacturing and further processing - the days of subsidies to single firms are gone.
- Climate Change – even the PM has given this the cold shoulder.

Crean and the independents should be applauded for this program. But there will be a deluge of submissions and many will be go nowhere because \$1 billion isn't much at a national level. Councils should nevertheless work up their ideas, because the RDA Fund may evolve into an ongoing program. Cockatoo can help. (This article appears in the April edition of LG Focus).

Casual Vacancies on RDA Boards: Nominations called

Regional Development Australia committee members have been appointed for periods of between two or four years. Committees across Australia will have casual vacancies from time to

time. The Australian Government is accepting nominations to fill these casual vacancies from people with the capabilities and expertise to contribute to the development and growth of regional Australia. These nominations will be considered for casual vacancies as they arise. Nominations through the public expression of interest process will also be considered for appointment to a casual vacancy.

ANZRSAI members should be interested in RDA and could apply. That might even help ANZRSAI to engage with RDA. The Minister hasn't.

ANZRSAI Annual Conference Awards Presented

The 34th Annual Conference held at Rydges on Swanston, Melbourne, from 7-10 December 2010 was a great success. Particular congratulations go to our two Pauls, President Paul Dalziel and Conference convenor Paul Collits.

A number of Awards were presented at the conference dinner.

The **John Dickinson Memorial Award** for best article in the **Australasian Journal of Regional Science** 2010 was awarded to A. J. Brown and J. A. Bellamy for their article —*In The Shadow of Federalism: Dilemmas of Institutional Design in Australian Rural and Remote Regional Governance* (Vol. 16, No. 2, pp. 151-181). See Abstract above.

The **ANZRSAI Award for Best Conference Paper 2010** was awarded to Shelby Canterford for her article —*Locating people spatially: 2006, 2010, 2100 and 2:36pm on Friday*. This paper is the first paper presented in the conference proceedings, and will be reproduced in the conference issue of the **Australasian Journal of Regional Science** (Vol. 17, No. 1, April 2011).

The **ANZRSAI Award for Best Conference Paper by a Current or Recent Student 2010** was awarded to Ralph B. McLaughlin for his paper —*Metropolitan Growth Policies and New Housing Supply: Evidence from Australia's Capital Cities*. This paper will also be reproduced in the conference issue of the Australasian Journal of Regional Science. The committee also highly commended two other entrants for this Award: Karim Mardaneh for his paper —*Clustering Australian Regional Areas: An Optimisation Approach* and Matthew Campbell-Ellis for his paper co-authored with Tony McCall —*Sustainable Development Platform Methods for Constructing Innovation and Managing Common Pool Resources*.

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At the conference dinner, the ANZRSAI Council presented Professor Christine Smith with its rarely given *Distinguished Service Award*. The citation for this Award, delivered by Professor Tony Sorensen, will be printed in the conference issue of the Australasian Journal of Regional Science. That issue will also reproduce the keynote addresses delivered at the conference.

If you missed the Conference, the Proceedings are available on our website www.anzrsai.org

Do not miss our next Annual conference in Canberra in December 2011.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

22nd PRSCO Conference, Seoul, Korea 3–6 July 2011.

The overall theme of the conference is *New Trends and Challenges – Green Growth of The Regional Economy and High Tech Development & Job Creation*. The organizing committee invites papers on topics in regional science for presentation at the conference.

The indicative timetable is as follows:

15th March 2011: Submission of abstracts

6th April 2011: Final date for early bird registration

20th May 2011: Final date for conference

registration by paper presenters

15th June 2011: Final conference program on website

3rd July 2011: Start of the conference

For more information see www.prsco2011.com
Chairperson Jichung Yang: jcyang@snu.ac.kr

Third Global Conference on Economic Geography, Seoul, Korea 28 June – 1 July 2011

Themes:

- Global Financial Crisis
- Green Growth and its Spatial Implications
- Aging Society and Economic Space
- Urbanization and Economic Development
- Local Development in a Globalized World - Issues and Implications
- Creative Cities and Regions
- Regional Innovation Systems
- Regional Economic Resilience
- Remapping the Global Production Space
- Digital Convergence and Spatial Reorganization
- Revisiting Industrial Cluster Policies

Abstracts 31 January 2011

Registration 31 March 2011

Travel award application due 28 February 2011

Conference website: <http://www.space-economy.org/conference>

Fifth World Conference on Spatial Econometrics

Spatial Econometrics Association

Toulouse Capitole University, 6-8 July 2011

Themes, include:

- Economic growth and convergence
- Human capital
- Inequality
- Knowledge diffusion
- Agglomeration of economic activity
- Foreign direct investment
- Labor markets and migration
- Education and migration
- Environment and sustainability
- Externalities and spillovers
- Flows of goods, people and ideas
- Land use, real estate, and housing markets
- Exploratory spatial data analysis
- Spatial regression models
- GMM estimators for spatial models
- Spatial panel data models
- Continuous-time spatial econometrics
- Space-time aggregation
- Spatial and social network effects
- Spatial filtering

Abstracts due by 25th of March

<http://sea2011.univ-tlse1.fr/index.html>

Towards Liveable Cities and Better Communities

The New Urbanism & Smart Transport 2011 International Conference Perth – Australia

Call for Abstract Deadline has been extended through April 26th 2011. For details on Abstract submission please go to:

www.newurbanism-smarttransport.com

CALL FOR PAPERS:

You are invited to submit an Abstract of approximately 100-150 words by 26 April 2011 online:

http://newurbanism-smarttransport.com/call_for_abstracts

Completed Papers requiring peer review will need to be submitted by Friday 1 July 2011. Completed Papers not requiring peer review will need to be submitted by Friday 22 July 2011.

Early Bird Registration - Now Open

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ABOUT ANZRSAI

Council Meeting

10th March 2010

Council discussed the value to members of access to the Regional Science Association journals managed by Wiley. If you have not received an email from Wiley explaining how to access journals, then either your membership has lapsed or you need to contact ANZRSAI at www.anzrsai.org.

Council formally congratulated Christine Smith for her Award for Distinguished Service, Shelby Canterford for Best Conference Paper, Ralph McLaughlin for Best Paper by a student or recent graduate and A. J. Brown and J. A. Bellamy for the Best Paper in the AJRS. Abstracts of these papers are provided elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Financial report noted that ANZRSAI is solvent and able to pay our foreseeable expenses, but that in the longer run the current financial position is not stable. ANZRSAI depends heavily on conference revenue, which accounts for 40% of income. Grants account for 33% of income and membership for 24%. All membership numbers are down. The 2010 conference made a small loss. The continued stability of ANZRSAI requires an increase in stable income, particularly from membership growth.

The new editorial team of Australian Journal of Regional Studies, Professor Tony Sorensen and Sonja Glavac, continue to receive quality submissions for the 2nd Edition for 2011. The first edition was edited by Paul Dalziel and carries a selection of invited and best papers from the Annual Conference. (See abstracts above)

Sustaining Regions has for some time had difficulty in attracting authors. However, two people, one in Australia and the other in Canada, have expressed interest in providing papers over the past year, and Council is discussing a repositioning of this important practitioner journal.

A small team of Council members are discussing and revising the aims, functions, author guidelines and Editorial Boards and operating procedures for both AJRS and Sustaining Regions, and will report to a future Council meeting.

At the time of this meeting ANZRSAI had 33 members, about half of the number of potential members in our database, all of whom should have received invoices. Council discussed the challenge of rebuilding ANZRSAI membership, including better defining and presenting the benefits of membership, the responsibility of each Council

member to participate in membership development, and the structure of membership fees.

The features which membership of ANZRSAI offers people in all walks of life include access to four journals and their associated archives of evidence about regions; access to an Australasian and international network of leading thinkers on all matters regional, through both the annual Conference and www.anzrsai.org.

People who must deal with the complexity of regions, the rapidly developing regional policy environment, and the emergence of new approaches and new knowledge about regions can all obtain renewal and professional development from these features of membership in ANZRSAI.

All members can join with Council members to raise awareness of these benefits by promoting them to their acquaintances, to their own communities, and through developing local ANZRSAI networks. [See the SA model below] Council members also need to contact and follow up former members in their region. Every member can help.

Council will review the range membership types, including both personal and institutional membership, the membership fees, and the publicity materials available to prospective members directly and through this Newsletter.

Council aims to sustain an independent Annual Conference, to maintain and grow the ranking and value to members of both our publications, and to sustain our awards to students and early career researchers.

Planning has begun investigating venues and support for the December 2011 ANZRSAI Annual Conference be held in Canberra, with a theme of resilient communities.

Benefits of Membership

In our last edition we asked members to comment on the benefits of membership and on a proposal for a new form of membership for incorporated bodies.

We noted that ANZRSAI members can access the evidence, research and smart ideas they need for urban, rural and remote regions, from our: extensive publication archives, Newsletter, informed members, Annual, Pacific region and international conferences.

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We want to make these benefits more accessible to regional organizations like RDA or NRM Boards, or local and State government.

ANZRSAI could partner with agencies in joint projects to:

- Improve on-line searching of journals;
- Redevelop *Sustaining Regions*;
- Build Regional Innovation Networks;
- Find research partners; and
- Extend practitioner involvement.

Council is considering offering incorporated agencies such as RDA Boards a corporate membership rate of \$240 providing their members and staff with access equivalent to individual memberships. This proposal may expand the membership and reach of ANZRSAI or lead to an erosion of individual memberships.

What do you think?

Council needs your views on ANZRSAI. How could we expand membership and improve ANZRSAI?

Please comment by email to anzrsai@anzrsai.org .

ANZRSAI Network in South Australia

Since March 2009 ANZRSAI has been conducting a series of 3 or four informal network meetings per year for people with interests in regions, whether urban, rural or remote. Participants include researchers and practitioners, including managers, consultants, policy makers, professors and students.

To date this network has developed a contact list in excess of 110 people, friends of regions, who have become familiar with ANZRSAI. Meetings have attracted from six to 26 participants.

Some meetings have a speaker. Speakers have included Professor Kingsley Haynes from the School of Public Policy, George Mason University, USA and Rob Greenwood from the Harris Centre, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada; and Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Network of practitioners and researchers in SA, Identify emerging issues for regions and Strengthen linkages within ANZRSAI

Typical Agenda (4pm to 6pm)

- Introduction: Who, interest, activity, issues
- Presentation (if any)
- General Discussion
- Reminders about ANZRSAI

ANZRSAI Council 2010-11

President

Paul Dalziel
Lincoln University, Canterbury NZ

Vice President (Australia)

Paul Collits
RMIT University, Hamilton

Vice President (New Zealand)

David Wilson
AUT University, Auckland NZ

Secretary/Public Officer

David Fuller
University of Wollongong

Treasurer

Tony O'Malley
University of South Australia

Council Member (ACT)

Shelby Canterford
Geoscience Australia, Canberra

Council Member (NSW)

Tony Sorensen
University of New England, Armidale

Council Member (NT)

Rolf Gerritsen
Charles Darwin University, Darwin

Council Member (NZ)

Vacant

Council Member (QLD)

Christine Smith
Griffith University, Brisbane

Council Member (SA)

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University of South Australia

Council Member (TAS)

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University of Tasmania, Burnie

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Ann Hodgkinson
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