

Note from the Editors

The unifying theme in all the articles contained in this edition is one of evidence-based policy and / or strategy formulation within complex business or government arenas. Remarkably, too, four of the articles involve *climate* concerns broadly construed. Of these, two deal specifically with contrasting aspects of climate change management. Ananda's article is concerned with developing a public-private benefit framework to apportion responsibility among local businesses and institutions for the management of climate change. This valuable perspective, which is not often raised in debates on the subject, is discussed in the context of north-eastern Victoria. On the other hand, Zeppel focuses on the content of public and community-based planning policies in coastal Queensland designed to handle the impact of climate change on infrastructure and the environment and engender community resilience in combatting extreme weather events and rising sea level. Her empirical observations vary in emphasis on problems and strategies among the agencies studied. Pearce's article, co-authored with a large cast, focuses on a perennial Australian problem – that of handling water shortages during drought events. It shows that public perceptions on how to manage the problem vary between city and country and across income groups. This, in turn, leads the authors to assess the merits of uniform restrictions across South Australia given different regional attitudes and perceptions. The final *climatic* contribution provides us with a novel dimension of Australia's wine industry, namely spoilage in transit because of temperature fluctuations. The underlying empirical research conducted by Marquez and her colleagues measures these fluctuations both on land and at sea, and demonstrates the industry's need to focus more attention on packaging, refrigeration, insulation and other dimensions of transport logistics.

The two remaining articles are more closely aligned with traditional regional science. Moyeen and Courvisanos address the issue of corporate social responsibility (CSR), which is usually raised in connection with the big end of town. However, they demonstrate CSR's relevance to regional communities and how it might be adopted and adapted by the SMEs who populate the private sectors of Australia's regional cities. Finally, but not least, Toland and Yoong adapt the European and US concept of the learning region conceptually to fit their New Zealand context. They identify six key dimensions of learning regions – the 6-I framework – and use them to analyse how far governments' ICT strategies have impacted

the learning capacities of the Wellington and Southland regions. This is an interesting blend of theoretical development and empirical investigation in policy-related field.

These contributions underscore the slow migration of ANZ regional science from quantitative model-building to document and explain regional economic conditions into evidence-based evaluation of policy and strategy settings designed to remedy perceived spatial problems and inequalities.

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