

Notes from the Editors

This edition of the of journal presents six contributions which, while diverse, share the common trait of providing contemporary updates, new information and insights into significant, ongoing issues in regional science in the Australasian context.

An obvious outcome of the global warming phenomena is the need to enhance and upgrade Australian disaster management and policies. The paper by Davis and Davidson provides a timely comparison of the various strategic approaches being adopted across several Australian States.

Ongoing issues surrounding the application and administration of Native Title and its impact on regional Australia currently receives much less political and community attention than was the case even a decade ago. The work by Mannix and Hefferan recognises that, while progress has been made, there are still remarkable uncertainties as to the resolution of compensation in such matters with significant legal challenges still to be resolved.

Another regionally important matter is the status and future direction of carbon sequestration initiatives in Australia. The paper by Blake provides a timely update on this. While recognising the remarkable potential for environmental and economic benefits in Australian regions, it also reflects on the unfortunate lack of uniformity in approach across the States which does little to promote confidence in the further advancement of these opportunities.

The paper by Esparon *et al.* reflects on another long-standing but unresolved issue for regional science and impact analysis—that relating to the identification and appropriate assessment of dynamic social values which, by their nature, are much more difficult to specify and quantify than, say, economic impact components.

The fifth research paper here contributes new insights into the ongoing debate as to the benefits or otherwise of the merger of regional councils. The paper by Wallace and Dollery considers the forced amalgamation of two shires in northern New South Wales, interestingly from the point of view of the Administrator charged with that significant challenge.

From time to time, this journal includes collections of papers following a research theme relevant across the various components of regional science. Such consolidation provides a valuable and contemporary research platform for all readers and particularly those involved in more specific research projects or in further post-graduate studies. We are most pleased in this edition to include such a collection by a long-time colleague of ANZRSAI, Edward Morrison of Purdue University, Indiana.

This important review/collection provides three different but converging perspectives on regional science—reflecting the interests of business, public policy makers and universities. It draws together a number of key elements including innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems and platforms in the theory and practice of regional development.

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