Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 4 - Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State

Australia

July 2011
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Australia

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician
For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

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1 Effective dates of ASGS Significant Urban Areas, Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State Edition ....... 29
This publication is the fourth volume of a series detailing the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). This publication describes the Significant Urban Area (SUA) and the Urban Centre and Locality/Section of State (UCL/SOS) Structures of the ASGS.

The SUA provides a geographical standard for the publication of statistics about concentrations of urban development with a population of 10,000 people or more. The regions are constructed from whole Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s).

The UCL/SOS structure provides a definition of urban areas. These regions are constructed from whole Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s). SOS further aggregates the UCLs in each state on the basis of their population.

The ASGS represents a more comprehensive, flexible and consistent way of defining Australia’s statistical geography than the previous geographic classification used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). For further information, or to assist you to move from the previous ASGC to the ASGS please refer to the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>.

The ASGS brings all the regions for which the ABS publishes statistics within the one framework and is being used by the ABS for the dissemination of geographically classified statistics from 1 July 2011. It is the framework for understanding and interpreting the geographical context of statistics published by the ABS. The ABS also encourages the use of the ASGS by other organisations to improve the comparability and usefulness of statistics generally.

This publication is the fourth volume of a series detailing the ASGS. Already published are:


ASGS Volume 5 will be released in late 2012 or early 2013:


The digital boundaries, codes and names for the regions described in this volume are available free of charge from the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>.

Any enquires regarding the ASGS, the SUA and UCL/SOS structures or suggestions for their improvement can be made by emailing <geography@abs.gov.au>.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician
ABBREVIATIONS

ABS  Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT  Australian Capital Territory
ASGC Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGS Australian Statistical Geography Standard
Aust. Australia
GCCSA Greater Capital City Statistical Area
NSW  New South Wales
NT   Northern Territory
OT   Other Territories
Qld  Queensland
S Dist Statistical District
S/T  state or territory
SA   South Australia
SA1  Statistical Area Level 1
SA2  Statistical Area Level 2
SOS  Section of State
SOSR Section of State Range
SSD  Statistical Subdivision
SUA  Significant Urban Area
Tas. Tasmania
UCL  Urban Centre and Locality
Vic.  Victoria
WA   Western Australia
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

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PURPOSE

This volume describes the Significant Urban Area (SUA) and Urban Centre and Locality/Section of State (UCL/SOS) Structures of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). For each of these structures it details:

- the purpose of each structure
- the hierarchy of regions within each structure
- the delimitation of the various regions
- their relationship with similar structures in the previous Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)
- the naming conventions
- the coding conventions.

CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE

Diagram 1, below, depicts the SUA and UCL/SOS Structures, the component regions of each and how they relate to the rest of the ASGS. Both are ABS structures as they are defined and maintained by the ABS.

DIAGRAM 1: ASGS ABS STRUCTURES
Table 1 summarises the number of regions at each level of the SUA and UCL/SOS structures for each State or Territory (S/T).

### TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF URBAN CENTRE AND LOCALITY/SECTION OF STATE STRUCTURE AND SIGNIFICANT URBAN AREA UNITS AT JULY 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spatial Unit</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>Vc.</th>
<th>Qld</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>WA</th>
<th>Tas.</th>
<th>NT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>OT(a)</th>
<th>Aust</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UCL(b)</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOSR(b)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOSR(c)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUA(d)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Other Territories (OT) includes the Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Jervis Bay.

(b) Includes records for Remainder of State/Territory, No usual address and Migratory - Offshore - Shipping for each state and territory.

(c) Includes records for No usual address and Migratory - Offshore - Shipping for each state and territory.

(d) SUAs crossing S/T borders are included in each of the S/T totals. Each is counted only once in the Australia total.
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</tbody>
</table>
PURPOSE

The Significant Urban Area (SUA) structure of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) is used to disseminate a broad range of ABS social and demographic statistics. It represents concentrations of urban development with a population of 10,000 or more using whole Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s). They do not necessarily represent a single Urban Centre, as they can represent a cluster of related Urban Centres with a core urban population over 10,000. They can also include related peri-urban and satellite development and the area into which the urban development is likely to expand.

The use of whole SA2s allows the SUAs to be identified in non-Census data, for example Estimated Resident Population.

STRUCTURE

The structure only has one level above the SA2 level of the ASGS main structure. Parts of a State or Territory (S/T) not in an SUA are combined to form a 'Not in any significant urban area' region. The SUA structure does not aggregate to S/T, as SUAs may cross a S/T boundary. The SUAs and the individual 'Not in any significant urban area' regions cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps.

From the Mesh Block level the complete list of spatial units in this structure are:

- Mesh Blocks
- Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1)
- SA2s
- SUAs
- Australia

For more information regarding the MBs, SA1s, and SA2s, please refer to *Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011* (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).
SIGNIFICANT URBAN AREA (SUA)

DELIMITATION OF SUAs

The regions of the SUA structure are constructed from whole SA2s. They are clusters of one or more contiguous SA2s containing one or more related Urban Centres joined using the following criteria:

- they are in the same labour market
- they contain related Urban Centres where the edges of the Urban Centres are less than 5km apart defined by road distance
- they have an aggregate urban population exceeding 10,000 persons
- at least one of the related Urban Centres has an urban population of 7,000 persons or more.

For the purposes of applying these criteria, a Labour Market is defined as:

- a Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA)
- the combined Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4) of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie and Hunter Valley exc Newcastle as these represent a single labour market
- adjacent SA4s across a S/T boundary.

Road distance is measured along the most direct sealed road with a centre line joining two Urban Centres. The distance is measured from the Urban Centre boundaries as defined by the UCL/SOS structure (see Chapter 3).

SA1s not in an SUA are combined to form a 'Not in any significant urban area' region for each S/T.

COMPARABILITY WITH STATISTICAL DISTRICTS

SUAs represent a new structure without precedent in the ASGC. For regional cities with a population of 25,000 or more, SUAs are broadly comparable to Statistical Districts (S Dists). It is important to recognise that there are a number of key differences between the SUAs and the S Dists.

SUAs:

- define all cities and towns with a population over 10,000; Statistical Districts only identified Regional Cities over 25,000 people
- are defined for capital cities, satellite cities and towns within the GCCSA; S Dists were only defined outside Capital City Statistical Divisions
- are defined using whole SA2s; S Dists were defined using whole Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs)
- may combine one or more related Urban Centres; S Dists only represented a single Urban Centre.

SUA NAMES

The key criteria for SUA names are that they be:

- meaningful
- a maximum of 40 characters
- unique, i.e. not shared by any other SUA in Australia.

Where an SUA represents a single dominant centre then it is named for that centre:

- Alice Springs
- Albany
- Mount Gambier

Where an SUA represents a combination of two centres of comparable importance, it is
The related material listed below is available for the SUA structure from the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>.

- Maps of the SUAs in '.pdf' format.
- Digital boundaries for the SUAs as MapInfo Interchange Format files (.mid .mif) and ESRI Shape files (.shp).
- Codes, labels and hierarchies for SUAs in '.csv' format.
- Selected correspondences between SUAs and other ASGS regions.

### SUA NAMES continued

named for both centres separated by spaces and a hyphen:
- Gladstone - Tannum Sands
- Warragul - Drouin
- Kalgoorlie - Boulder

Where an SUA crosses a S/T border, it is named after the largest centre on each side, separated by spaces and a hyphen:
- Gold Coast - Tweed Heads
- Mildura - Buronga
- Canberra - Queanbeyan

Where an SUA represents a region with a widely recognised name, it is named for that region:
- Sunshine Coast
- Central Coast

### SUA CODING STRUCTURE

An SUA is identifiable by a unique 4 digit non-hierarchical code. The SUA code is unique within Australia. The regions representing those parts of a S/T ‘Not in a significant urban area’ have codes ending in 000:
- 5009 Perth
- 1012 Dubbo
- 8000 Not in a Significant Urban Area (ACT)

### RELATED MATERIAL

The related material listed below is available for the SUA structure from the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>.

- Maps of the SUAs in '.pdf' format.
- Digital boundaries for the SUAs as MapInfo Interchange Format files (.mid .mif) and ESRI Shape files (.shp).
- Codes, labels and hierarchies for SUAs in '.csv' format.
- Selected correspondences between SUAs and other ASGS regions.
### CHAPTER 3

**URBAN CENTRE AND LOCALITY/SECTION OF STATE (UCL/SOS)**

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PURPOSE

The Urban Centres and Localities/Section of State (UCL/SOS) structure is intended primarily for the dissemination of statistics from the Census of Population and Housing. The structure represents areas of concentrated urban development. It consists of Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s) aggregated together to form regions defined according to population density and other criteria.

UCL/SOS does not explicitly define rural Australia; however, in practice, any population not contained in an Urban Centre is considered to be rural. It is important to realise that the Bounded Localities and Rural Remainder areas, commonly combined to define ‘rural Australia’, contain considerable areas of urban style development, peri-urban development and substantial infrastructure.

STRUCTURE

The Structure has three hierarchical levels above SA1 comprising in ascending order: Urban Centres and Localities (UCLs), Section of State Range (SOSR) and Section of State (SOS). UCLs can cross State or Territory (S/T) boundaries; the Structure therefore does not aggregate to S/T although where a UCL is bisected by a S/T boundary, each portion of the UCL is separately identified.

The UCL/SOS structure covers the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps.

From the Mesh Block level the complete list of spatial units in this structure are:
- Mesh Blocks
- SA1s
- UCLs
- SOSR
- SOS
- Australia

For more information regarding the Mesh Blocks and SA1s please refer to Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).
An Urban Centre is a cluster of contiguous SA1s with an aggregate population exceeding 1,000 persons contained within SA1s that are ‘of urban character’.

SA1s meeting at a point are not considered to be ‘contiguous’.

SA1s containing the following infrastructure are considered to be ‘of urban character’ if adjacent to an SA1 ‘of urban character’ as defined above:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- airports with paved runways
- caravan parks
- cemeteries
- community parks and reserves
- defence facilities
- educational institutions
- electricity sub stations
- golf courses
- grain storage
- hospitals
- industrial areas (including meat works and abattoirs)
- non-agricultural commercial development
- office complexes
- parks, reserve areas, foreshore reserves that are between an urban area and the shoreline
- ports and port facilities
- prisons
- racecourses
- railway stations, bus stations and similar transport hubs
- research facilities
- sale yards
- sewerage facilities
- shopping centres
- show grounds
- sports facilities
- tourist attractions (including theme parks)
- tourist resorts
- unpaved airstrips immediately contiguous with the built up area
- waste disposal facilities.
The following infrastructure is not considered urban, unless completely surrounded by urban SA1s, or split a centre that would otherwise be considered a single entity:
- mines
- wineries
- power stations
- dams and reservoirs
- national parks
- forests
- shooting ranges
- explosives handling and munitions areas
- defence force training grounds.

Any area completely surrounded by SA1s which are urban is itself classified as urban. This includes areas that are bounded by an Urban Centre and a shore or coastline.

An adjacent SA1 on the edge of an Urban Centre can be included in that Urban Centre at the discretion of the designer if that SA1 would have been considered as a Locality in its own right (see below) and is obviously part of that Urban Centre.

An adjacent SA1 on the edge of an Urban Centre can be included in an Urban Centre at the discretion of the designer if that SA1, through inappropriate SA1 design, contains features that should otherwise be included in the Urban Centre; even if it does not satisfy previous criteria.

Abutting Urban Centres are to be joined into a single entity unless they are in a separate labour market. For the purposes of applying these criteria a labour market is defined as:
- a Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA)
- the combined Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4) of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie and Hunter Valley exc Newcastle as these represent a single labour market
- adjacent SA4s across a S/T boundary.

Urban Centres are not joined if they are clearly separated by a major geographic barrier.

All contiguous urban growth is included together with any close (less than 500 metres), but non-contiguous development which could be clearly regarded as part of the Urban Centre. If necessary these can be linked to the Urban Centre through adjoining SA1s, which will also become part of the Urban Centre.

Smaller Urban Centres within 1.5 km of an Urban Centre with a population exceeding 20,000 persons, are subsumed by the larger Urban Centre. They are not joined if they are in separate labour markets or are clearly separated by geographic barriers. The distance is calculated from the SA1 edges of each centre along direct road links. SA1s containing these linking roads are themselves included in the Urban Centre, unless they severely compromise the Urban Centre design. Ferry and rail links are not to be considered.

Discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with a population exceeding 1,000 are considered to be Urban Centres.

Discrete tourist resorts with a population exceeding 1,000 are considered to be Urban Centres.
The introduction of the ASGS, particularly the SA1s, made it impractical to use the previous Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) UCL and SOS criteria without modification. The UCL criteria were therefore redeveloped with the following considerations:

- The resultant definition of UCLs should be broadly comparable to the past.
- The criteria should be as objective as possible.
- The criteria should be the same regardless of the size of the Urban Centre.
- The outcome should be reproducible from publicly available information, either from the ABS or other sources.

Consequently, the new criteria are different from those used previously. The result identifies a broadly similar set of UCLs as the past definition, containing similar populations. In most cases it is possible to make a valid comparison of the same UCLs across several Censuses. In doing such a comparison it is important to realise that:

- UCLs are dynamic, they grow, absorb nearby centres or decline.
- The regions from which they are built also change with the underlying settlement pattern.

S/T, Local Government Areas (LGA) and other administrative boundaries are disregarded in determining whether an SA1 should be included within the Urban Centre.

Localities are defined according the following criteria:

- Each Locality is to consist of a contiguous cluster of one or more SA1s.
- Each cluster should:
  - contain a population of at least 200 'Usual Residents'
  - represent a clear aggregation of residential population.

Towns with a 'Usual Resident' population of under 200 persons, but with a significantly greater 'As Enumerated' population, are also defined as Localities. These are typically tourism destinations.

The defining of Localities is necessarily more subjective than for Urban Centres as their population can be well below the optimal for a single SA1. SA1 design therefore has a significant influence on their definition. In addition, there are many different configurations of small settlements, including villages, towns, clusters of peri-urban style development, and areas with significant tourism.

A Locality may contain a population exceeding 1,000 persons if it does not meet the criteria for an Urban Centre.

A Locality is not combined with an abutting Urban Centre or Locality unless they are functionally a single entity.

Discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with a population between 200 and 999 are considered Localities.

Discrete tourist resorts with a population between 200 and 999 are considered Localities.

All SA1s in a S/T, except special purpose SA1s which are not included in an UCL, are combined into 'Remainder of State/Territory' which represents the rural balance of the S/T.
**LOCALITIES WITH A POPULATION OVER 1,000**

In the past any UCL with a population over 1,000 was automatically considered an Urban Centre. The criteria above allow the identification of developments with some urban characteristics, which do not satisfy all the criteria for an Urban Centre, yet have a population over 1,000. These UCLs are considered to be large Localities.

**UCL NAMES**

The key criteria for UCL names are that they be:
- meaningful
- have a maximum of 40 characters
- unique, i.e. not shared by any other UCL in Australia.

Where an UCL represents a single dominant centre then it is named for that centre:
- Melbourne
- Sydney
- Townsville

Where an UCL represents a combination of two centres of comparable importance, it is named for both centres separated by a dash, the largest taking precedence:
- Shepparton - Mooroopna
- Bushfield - Woodford
- Berrara - Cudmirrah (L)

Where an UCL crosses a S/T border, the component parts are identified in brackets:
- Gold Coast - Tweed Heads (Gold Coast Part)
- Gold Coast - Tweed Heads (Tweed Heads Part)
- Canberra - Queanbeyan (Canberra Part)
- Canberra - Queanbeyan (Queanbeyan Part)

Where an UCL represents a region with a widely recognised name, then that name is used:
- Sunshine Coast
- Central Coast

Localities have (L) appended to their names to indicate they are Localities and not Urban Centres:
- Agnes Bank (L)
- Avoca (L)
- Mount Burr (L)

Where an UCL name would not otherwise be unique, the S/T abbreviation is appended in brackets:
- Maitland (SA)
- Maitland (NSW)
- Mount Barker (SA)
- Mount Barker (WA)
- Richmond (L) (Tas.)
- Richmond (L) (Qld)
UCL CODES

An UCL is identifiable by a 6 digit fully hierarchical code. This comprises a S/T, SOS and SOSR and an UCL identifier. An UCL identifier is only unique if it is preceded by the S/T, SOS and SOSR identifiers. It is therefore possible to identify the population range to which the UCL belongs from the component SOS and SOSR codes. This was not possible under the ASGC UCL coding system.

For example:

922002 JERVIS BAY (L)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/T</th>
<th>SOS</th>
<th>SOSR</th>
<th>UCL</th>
<th>UCL Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>002</td>
<td>Jervis Bay (L)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

631777 REMAINDER OF STATE/TERRITORY (TAS.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/T</th>
<th>SOS</th>
<th>SOSR</th>
<th>UCL</th>
<th>UCL Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>Remainder of State/Territory (Tas.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPECIAL PURPOSE UCLs

Two UCLs are defined in each S/T for that part of a population which cannot be meaningfully assigned to a geographically defined region:

- Migratory - Offshore - Shipping
- No usual address

179997 MIGRATORY - OFFSHORE - SHIPPING (NSW)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/T</th>
<th>SOS</th>
<th>SOSR</th>
<th>UCL</th>
<th>UCL Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (NSW)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

299994 NO USUAL ADDRESS (VIC.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/T</th>
<th>SOS</th>
<th>SOSR</th>
<th>UCL</th>
<th>UCL Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>No usual address (Vic.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION OF STATE (SOS)

SOS aggregates the UCLs on the basis of population ranges i.e. all UCLs in a S/T within a particular population range are combined into a single SOS.

There are 4 SOS identifiers and names. These are listed below with definitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identifier</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Major Urban</td>
<td>Major Urban represents a combination of all Urban Centres with a population of 100,000 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Other Urban</td>
<td>Other Urban represents a combination of all Urban Centres with a population between 1,000 and 99,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bounded Locality</td>
<td>Bounded Localities represents a combination of all Bounded Localities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rural Balance</td>
<td>Rural Balance represents the Remainder of State/Territory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

S/Ts do not necessarily have all SOS codes.

SOS names are not unique across Australia.

SOS CODES

A SOS is identifiable by a 2 digit fully hierarchical code. This comprises a S/T and SOS identifiers. A SOS identifier is only unique if it is preceded by the S/T identifier.

For example:

20 MAJOR URBAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/T</th>
<th>SOS</th>
<th>SOS Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Major Urban</td>
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</table>

93 RURAL BALANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/T</th>
<th>SOS</th>
<th>SOS Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rural Balance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPECIAL PURPOSE SOS

Two SOSs are also defined in each S/T for that part of a population which cannot be meaningfully assigned to a geographically defined region:

- Migratory - Offshore - Shipping
- No usual address

67 MIGRATORY - OFFSHORE - SHIPPING (TAS.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/T</th>
<th>SOS</th>
<th>SOS Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (Tas.)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### SPECIAL PURPOSE SOS

#### continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/T</th>
<th>SOS</th>
<th>SOS Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>No usual address (WA)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SOSR disaggregates the SOS on the basis of population ranges i.e. all UCLs in a S/T within a particular population range are combined into a single SOSR. SOSR regions are consequently not contiguous.

For Urban Centres these ranges are:
- 1,000,000 or more
- 250,000 to 999,999
- 100,000 to 249,999
- 50,000 to 99,999
- 20,000 to 49,999
- 10,000 to 19,999
- 5,000 to 9,999
- 1,000 to 4,999

For Localities these ranges are:
- 500 or more
- 200 to 499

There is no population limit applied to the 'Remainder of State/Territory', which are included in a SOSR of 'Remainder of the State/Territory' for each S/T.

S/Ts do not necessarily have all SOSR codes.

There are 8 SOSRs named for the population ranges they represent or the 'Remainder of State/Territory' and these are:
- 1 million or more
- 250,000 to 999,999
- 100,000 to 249,999
- 50,000 to 99,999
- 20,000 to 49,999
- 10,000 to 19,999
- 5,000 to 9,999
- 1,000 to 4,999
- Remainder of State/Territory

SOSR names are not unique in Australia.

A SOSR is identifiable by a 3 digit fully hierarchical code. This comprises S/T, SOS and SOSR identifiers. A SOSR identifier is only unique if it is preceded by the S/T and SOS identifiers.

For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/T</th>
<th>SOS</th>
<th>SOSR</th>
<th>SOSR Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 million or more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### SOSR Codes continued

#### 431 Rural Balance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/T</th>
<th>SOS</th>
<th>SOSR</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rural Balance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The complete list of SOSR Identifiers within each SOS are:

#### Major Urban

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOS Identifier</th>
<th>SOSR Identifier</th>
<th>Population Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 million or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>250,000 to 999,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other Urban

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOS Identifier</th>
<th>SOSR Identifier</th>
<th>Population Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20,000 to 49,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10,000 to 19,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5,000 to 9,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,000 to 4,999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Bounded Locality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOS Identifier</th>
<th>SOSR Identifier</th>
<th>Population Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>500 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>200 or 499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Rural Balance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOS Identifier</th>
<th>SOSR Identifier</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Remainder of State/Territory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Migratory - Offshore - Shipping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOS Identifier</th>
<th>SOSR Identifier</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Migratory - Offshore - Shipping</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SOSR CODES continued

NO USUAL ADDRESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOS Identifier</th>
<th>SOSR Identifier</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>No usual address</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPECIAL PURPOSE SOSR

Two SOSRs are also defined in each S/T for that part of a population which cannot be meaningfully assigned to a geographically defined region:

- Migratory - Offshore - Shipping
- No usual address

379 MIGRATORY - OFFSHORE - SHIPPING (QLD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/T</th>
<th>SOS</th>
<th>SOSR</th>
<th>UCL Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (Qld)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

399 NO USUAL ADDRESS (QLD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/T</th>
<th>SOS</th>
<th>SOSR</th>
<th>UCL Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>No usual address (Qld)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RELATED MATERIAL

The related material listed below is available for the UCL/SOS structure from the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au/geography>.

- Maps of the UCLs in .pdf format.
- Digital boundaries for the various UCL/SOS regions as MapInfo Interchange Format files (.mid/.mif) and ESRI Shape files (.shp).
- Codes, labels and hierarchies for UCL/SOS in '.csv' format.
- Selected correspondences between UCL/SOS and other ASGS regions.
## EFFECTIVE DATES OF ASGS SIGNIFICANT URBAN AREAS, URBAN CENTRES AND LOCALITIES, SECTION OF STATE EDITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASGS SUA, UCL/SOS Edition</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1 July 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOR MORE INFORMATION...

INTERNET

www.abs.gov.au  the ABS website is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

Our consultants can help you access the full range of information published by the ABS that is available free of charge from our website. Information tailored to your needs can also be requested as a 'user pays' service. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

PHONE  1300 135 070

EMAIL  client.services@abs.gov.au

FAX  1300 135 211

POST  Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney NSW 2001

FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS

All statistics on the ABS website can be downloaded free of charge.

WEB ADDRESS  www.abs.gov.au