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Information Paper

Outcomes of ABS Views on Remoteness Consultation, Australia

2001

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Australian Statistician

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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PREFACE

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) is used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. The ASGC is an essential reference for understanding and interpreting the geographical context of ABS statistics. The ABS also encourages the use of the ASGC to improve the comparability and usefulness of statistics generally.

The 2001 Edition of the ASGC will include some important changes including, for the first time, a concept of Remoteness. These improvements are designed to make the classification more useful and to facilitate the collection and dissemination of statistics for a new geographical subdivision of Australia, not previously catered for. For a classification to be useful and meaningful, however, it must align with the expectations and understanding of users of statistics. This paper is the second of two information papers designed to explain the changes to our clients and to seek information on whether the new classification meets their needs.

The Remoteness Structure is designed to provide statistics which compare, on the one hand the major cities, and, at the other extreme, very remote areas. The ABS will proceed to produce statistics on this basis which will provide a real test of the usefulness of the Remoteness Structure.

Any inquiries regarding changes to the ASGC, or suggestions for its improvement, can be made by contacting the Director, Geography, on telephone 02 6252 7759, facsimile 02 6252 8666, e-mail geography@abs.gov.au or writing to PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT, 2616.

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

In January 2001, the ABS published an information paper *ABS Views on Remoteness* (Cat. no. 1244.0). That information paper proposed five changes to the ASGC. The proposed changes were:

Proposal 1	INCLUDE REMOTENESS AS A SEPARATE STRUCTURE IN THE ASGC
Proposal 2	USE THE ACCESSIBILITY/REMOTENESS INDEX FOR AUSTRALIA (ARIA) AS THE UNDERLYING METHODOLOGY FOR DETERMINATION OF REMOTENESS
Proposal 3	ADOPT FIVE CLASSES OF REMOTENESS
Proposal 4	USE THE CENSUS COLLECTION DISTRICT (CD) AS THE SPATIAL UNIT TO DEFINE THE CLASSIFICATION OF REMOTENESS
Proposal 5	INTRODUCE ADDITIONAL CLASSES INTO THE SECTION OF STATE (SOS) STRUCTURE

ABS Views on Remoteness (Cat. no. 1244.0) sought feedback to the proposed changes from users and potential users of the ASGC. While feedback was overwhelmingly positive, some concerns have emerged. The purpose of this paper is to respond to those concerns, clarify any areas of misunderstanding and describe the modifications which will be made to the original proposals when the changes are implemented into the ASGC 2001 Edition.

CHAPTER 2 SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO *ABS Views on Remoteness* (Cat. no. 1244.0)

Of the thirty one responses received from government agencies and individuals, none opposed the additional classes in the Section of State Structure and this change will proceed in the 2001 ASGC Edition. All but three respondents also supported the implementation of a Remoteness Structure. The three respondents who opposed a Remoteness Structure felt that "remoteness" is a subjective concept and should not therefore be incorporated in an objective classification such as the ASGC. These three, plus some other respondents, felt that the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) is not a good measure of accessibility/remoteness and that it should not be used to underpin a remoteness structure in a standard such as the ASGC. Some other respondents had reservations about one or more aspect of the ARIA methodology but felt that, on balance, it was adequate for the purpose.

1 SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO 'ABS VIEWS OF REMOTENESS' (CAT. NO. 1244.0)

	Federal			*State*			*Other*		
Proposal	*For*	*Against*	*Not stated*	*For*	*Against*	*Not stated*	*For*	*Against*	*Not stated*
1. Include Remoteness as a Separate Structure in the ASGC	7	1	5	7	1	5	0	1	4
2. Use ARIA as the Underlying Methodology for Determination of Remoteness	10	1	2	8	4	1	0	3	2
3. Adopt the Proposed Five Classes of Remoteness	6	2	5	8	1	3	0	2	4
4. Use the CD as the Spatial Unit to Define the Classification of Remoteness	6	1	6	7	1	5	0	1	4
5. Introduce Additional Classes into the SOS Structure	8	0	5	7	0	6	0	0	5

Note: No reponses were received from Tasmania or the ACT.

While the ABS appreciates the views of all respondents it is evident that there is some misunderstanding of the purpose and goals of the ASGC and the proposed Remoteness Structure. While some opposition to the proposals can be attributed to such misunderstandings, some responses supporting the new classification also clearly misunderstood its purpose. This paper attempts to make clear the purpose of the classification so that it can be judged for what it is rather than what it is not. It also describes the procedures which the ABS will adopt to minimise its potential misuse.

CHAPTER 3 THE ROLE AND PURPOSE OF THE ASGC

The main purpose of the ASGC is for collecting and disseminating geographically classified statistics. These are statistics with a 'where' dimension. The geographical classification itself only describes this 'where' dimension. It is the statistics for the area, not the geographical classification, which measure the characteristics of the population.

The ASGC has structures which group Census Collection Districts (CDs), currently the smallest building block of the classification, into administrative regions (LGAs), small towns (Localities), larger towns (Urban Centres), Major Urban Centres and a variety of other large and small areas designed for different statistical purposes. In recent years there has been increasing demand for aggregated statistics for what is loosely called the 'urban/regional/rural/remote' population of Australia. Unfortunately these terms are either undefined or, like the term 'metropolitan', have been defined differently in different classifications. The underlying statistical demand is for a geography which will allow quantitative comparisons between 'city' and 'country' Australia. In consultation with key users of the ASGC, both internal and external, the ABS determined that the current ASGC definition of urban/rural alone does not meet this need. A new structure was required and ABS investigated a range of options. The common ground between the similar but sometimes conflicting views of what is 'city' or 'country' is the geographical concept of physical remoteness — remoteness from goods and services and opportunities for social interaction.

While the current ASGC defines urban and rural Australia (Section of State Structure) it does not distinguish between urban areas which are on the fringe of a major city and those that are in the outback, far from a large city. Consideration was given to a single structure which would combine classes of urbanity with the concept of remoteness but this was abandoned in favour of retaining the current urban/rural definition and developing a separate structure for remoteness. The purpose of the new ASGC Remoteness Structure is therefore to group CDs together into broad geographical areas which share some common characteristics in terms of physical distance from services and opportunities for social interaction.

Statistical classifications group together things which have some common characteristics. For example, when the ABS publishes data by age and sex, it often publishes for classes such as 'Males aged 70 to 74' and 'Males aged 75 and over'. In doing so it is not assumed that the members of these classes are the same age, only that they are similar enough in age to form a meaningful class for particular purposes. Similarly the ASGC uses a subjective value of 200 persons per square kilometre to define Urban Centres. Thus this aggregation of CDs includes everything from low density suburban housing to inner city high rise. The Remoteness Structure will similarly group together CDs which are not equally remote but which fall into meaningful classes of remoteness. These classes must be large enough to allow for the publication of statistics. This means that data must meet ABS confidentiality requirements and the areas defined should preferably contain sufficient population to allow for the publication of data from sample surveys. There is an obvious tension between finer differentiation of remoteness and the availability of data.

In order to define a classification of remoteness, the ABS needed a method to measure remoteness. Remoteness has been quantified in several models in the past, including the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) Classification, the Australian Classification of Local Governments (ACLG) and the Griffith Service Access Frame (GSAF), but only one of these (RRMA) can be strictly described as a geographical classification. During 1997, the Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care (DH&AC) commissioned a project designed to measure and classify remoteness in a physical, geographic way. The result of this work is the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA), developed by the National Key Centre for Social Applications of GIS (GISCA).

The ABS and several other key ASGC users were represented on the steering committee for the development of what became ARIA. While the limitations of ARIA were well recognised, it was generally agreed by the steering committee that this type of physical definition of remoteness was the best approach for the ASGC to adopt. The limitations of ARIA are discussed in more detail below and these are important to how ARIA can and should be used. The ASGC, however, only uses ARIA as a means to an end. The aim of the ASGC Remoteness Structure is *not* to provide a measure of the remoteness of a particular location but to divide Australia into six broad regions of remoteness for comparative statistical purposes. An analogy would be classifying Australia into highlands and lowlands. In such a classification we do not need to know the height of Mt Kosciuszko to the nearest millimetre. We only need a coarse measure of elevation to develop a classification and form meaningful classes of height. Similarly, if we accept that the ASGC is for statistical purposes and locations within a given remoteness class are not necessarily equally remote, the known limitations of ARIA have little or no impact on the usefulness of the end classification.

ABS Views on Remoteness (Cat. no. 1244.0) necessarily focused on the fact that the Remoteness Structure will be defined on CDs, that is, the Remoteness Areas will be aggregates of CDs not of larger units such as SLAs. That discussion was meant to be about homogeneity of the Remoteness Areas. Unfortunately it focused some readers on the relative remoteness of individual CDs rather the primary goal of dividing Australia into six broad regions. The map at the Appendix is important to understanding the classification. There may be places in the 'Very Remote Australia' class which are much more remote than others, and ARIA may in fact understate the relative remoteness of some of those places, but the true test of the classification should be — is the area shown as such in the map a good representation of 'very remote'?

It was obvious in several responses to *ABS Views on Remoteness* (Cat. no. 1244.0) that the proposed Remoteness Structure was seen as a potential tool to determine whether a particular person should receive allowance X or concession Y or whether a particular LGA or State/Territory should receive some advantage in the allocation of public funds. While it is the role of the ABS to inform policy development, it is not the role of the ASGC to be the arbiter of how policy is implemented. The ASGC Remoteness Structure, in itself, says nothing about the characteristics of the population of the proposed Remoteness Areas other than that they are close to, or far from, a range of population centres. In any given Remoteness Area there may be rich people, poor people, indigenous and non-indigenous, graziers, manufacturers, town dwellers and rural people. The Remoteness Areas are designed to provide comparable statistics for what is perceived as an important subdivision of geographical Australia based on remoteness or distance from services. Decisions on funding allocation or service delivery evaluation based on the Remoteness Structure are only valid if the single variable of distance is the target of that particular policy. Even then it cannot be assumed that every location in a given Remoteness Area is equally remote.

The Remoteness Structure is designed to provide for statistics which compare, on the one hand the major cities, to, at the other extreme, very remote areas. Such statistics allow decision makers to quantify the differences and similarities.

2 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION(a) OF PEOPLE IN THE MOST DISADVANTAGED CDS, POPULATION(b) OF LOWEST 20% OF CDS BASED ON THE INDEX OF RELATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE

	Highly Accessible	*Accessible*	*Moderately Accessible*	*Remote/ Very Remote*	*Total*
Section of State	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*
Major Urban	55.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	55.7
Other Urban	17.3	11.9	2.9	1.7	33.8
Bounded Locality (rural)	1.0	1.9	1.0	1.2	5.1
Rural Balance	1.2	2.2	0.7	1.4	5.4
Total	**74.7**	**16.5**	**4.6**	**4.2**	**100.0**

(a) Described using two classifications of CDs, 'Section of State' and Remoteness class.

(b) Based on place of enumeration census counts.

Source: Australian Social Trends 2000 and unpublished data, 1996 Census of Population and Housing.

In the example in table 2 CDs have been cross classified by Remoteness and Section of State so that aggregated data can be compared for urban and rural population and remote population at the same time. The cross classification adds another dimension to the analysis and is also a good demonstration of how, in the ASGC, urbanity and remoteness will not be mutually exclusive.

It should be noted that where 'small area' data are available, for example from the Census of Population and Housing, it is also possible to analyse data for individual SLAs, UC/Ls or CDs. The Remoteness Structure is

aimed at providing comparative statistics even where small area data are not available, for example from sample surveys.

For other examples of analysis of 1996 Census data by Remoteness and Section of State refer to *Socio-economic disadvantage across urban, rural and remote areas, Proceedings of the Australian Population Association 10th Biennial Conference, Melbourne, 29 November–1 December, 2000*.

CHAPTER 4 ARIA — ITS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

The ARIA methodology is described in detail in *ABS Views on Remoteness* (Cat. no. 1244.0). Its basic premise is that there are more services available in large towns than in small towns and remoteness is a factor of the relative distance one must travel to access a full range of services. ARIA assumes that some services are available in small towns of 1,000 population, more services in towns of 5,000 population and so on. A full range of services is only assumed to be available in a city of 250,000 or more population. ARIA does not look at which services are available in a given town. To do so would be an interesting and challenging exercise and would be a very useful data source in it own right but is an unnecessary level of detail for a broad national classification like the Remoteness Structure proposed for the ASGC.

ARIA's generalised approach to the quantum of services means that, for example, Darwin, which is well supplied with many services, has a higher ARIA score than Geraldton because of the distance which one must travel from Darwin to a centre of 250,000 population. In this respect, ARIA provides a better measure of the relative remoteness of Darwin than other methodologies which treat Darwin the same as other capital cities which have much larger populations and many more services. On the other hand, if there was no weighting of distances, Darwin would be classified as 'Very Remote Australia' based purely on the distance from Darwin to Adelaide and despite the large number of services which are available in Darwin. ARIA score totals have five component values or sub-indexes. Capping the value of each of the five sub-indexes at three, ensures no single sub-index can dominate the total ARIA score in this way.

One criticism of ARIA lies in its title. The developers of ARIA have used the word 'Accessible' in the common English sense, i.e. the opposite to remote. However, 'Accessibility' has been used in a much more specific sense in the GSAF (see page 6). Some respondents to ABS Views on Remoteness felt that the GSAF methodology is so well established as to affect how people perceive 'accessibility' and that ARIA is not an adequate measure of 'accessibility' according to that meaning of the word. ARIA only measures distance from a place to various size centres and is certainly not a replacement for or alternative to GSAF which measures impediments to 'accessibility' such as time/cost of travel and the socio-economic capability of the community to overcome those impediments. GSAF is an analysis or classification of the population. It is not a candidate for a geographical classification because it includes socio-economic variables. GSAF may, however, be a more suitable policy tool than either ARIA or the ASGC Remoteness Structure if the variables which it incorporates are relevant to the particular policy issue.

ARIA measures the distance from a 'place' to the nearest town of 1,000 or more population then divides that distance by the average distance from all 'places' to their nearest town. This ratio is capped at a maximum value of 3 and becomes one of the five sub-indexes. The process is then repeated for the nearest town of 5,000 population and so on until finally all five sub-indexes are added together to form the ARIA index score for that 'place'. The 'places' which ARIA uses is a set of 11,300 populated places in the national topographic database, GEODATA 250k. The score for these places is then interpolated to a one kilometre grid so that, for all practical purposes, there is an ARIA score for any point on the map of Australia. ARIA is by definition a continuous index for any geographic point. ABS has overlaid the ARIA grid with CD boundaries and generated an average ARIA score for each CD. The CDs are then aggregated by class to form the Remoteness Areas. The accuracy with which the Remoteness Areas approximate the original ARIA boundary depends heavily on the size and orientation of the CDs. In remote areas CDs may be very large. If the ARIA index value is averaged over a larger geographical unit, like an SLA or post code, the variance from the average can be very high. In the extreme case the average ARIA score for, say a State or Territory, is meaningless. While the fact that ARIA is not specific to a geographical unit is generally a positive feature, it can also make a nonsense of the methodology if index values are averaged for inappropriately large areas.

The distances which ARIA uses are distances along a road network. Other classifications such as RRMA used 'as the crow flies' distance from the centre of an SLA to a large town. In fact it is only in recent years with advances in GIS software and available data that it has become feasible to calculate the shortest road distance from 11,300 points to five different size towns. Road distance, however, changes considerably when a road is cut by flooding and travel time can vary considerably with road condition which in turn can change from season to season or even from day to day.

The following communities in the Northern Territory, for example, had no effective road access due to seasonal flooding for over 100 days in the past year and their ARIA score is not, therefore, a good indicator of their relative remoteness. They are, however, already in the Very Remote Class.

3 SOME COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY WITH NO ROAD ACCESS FOR A LARGE PART OF THE YEAR

Community	*Remoteness Class*	*Populations*
Nhulunbuy	Very Remote	3695
Yirrkala	Very Remote	521
Oenpelli	Very Remote	741
Maningrida	Very Remote	1328
Milingimbi	Very Remote	941
Ramingining	Very Remote	473
Gapuwiyak	Very Remote	447
Numbulwar	Very Remote	619
Lajamanu	Very Remote	591

There are other similarly affected communities in other States. The ABS acknowledges this limitation of ARIA but still sees road distance as a better indicator than 'as the crow flies'. It is hoped that in future editions it may be possible to replace road distance with driving time but sufficient data on road conditions are simply not available at this time. Air travel is obviously an issue for some communities but a single indicator of distance is required and road travel is still the common denominator for most of Australia.

Obviously people living on islands cannot drive to the mainland to access services which are not available locally. ARIA uses a special weighting for islands which is detailed in DHAC *Occasional Papers: New Series No. 6 Measuring Remoteness: Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) August 1999*. This weighting means that islands are always more remote than the adjacent mainland. A particular case of an island is Tasmania. The largest city in Tasmania is less than 250,000 population so ARIA therefore assumes that people must travel to Melbourne for at least some services. All of Tasmania then receives a weighting because it is an island. As a result, parts of Tasmania which are not all that far from Hobart or Launceston are classified as 'Remote Australia'. While most people would accept that the south west coast of Tasmania is indeed remote, the ASGC Remoteness Structure also shows a small area of 'Remote Australia' on the east coast. This area is only remote because one must travel to Melbourne to access a full range of services with the associated weighting on the distance for Bass Strait. Users of the structure need to be aware that although Remoteness Areas are aggregated within States and Territories the classification is of remoteness in a national sense. Just as Tasmania has some remote area despite its internal compactness, areas quite close to Darwin are remote because of the distance to the nearest centre of 250,000 or more.

CHAPTER 5 CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

As a result of feedback to *ABS Views on Remoteness* (Cat. no. 1244.0), the ABS will proceed with the proposed additions to the classes of Urban Centres in the Section of State Structure. The Bounded Locality (pop. 200 to 999) class will also be split into 200 to 499 and 500 to 999.

In the Remoteness Structure a 'Migratory' category will be added to make the structure inclusive of all CDs.

The ARIA grid has been recalculated to eliminate some minor errors in the original computation and to overcome some inconsistencies in the methodology. One such improvement is the calculation of road distance to the perimeter of the Urban Centre rather than a nominal point inside the Urban Centre. This change avoids a potential problem when a separate Urban Centre, due to urban growth, merges into a larger Urban Centre. Previously this could cause ARIA scores for areas adjacent to the former Urban Centre to increase when logically they should decrease. The technique for interpolation from the 11,300 populated places to the one kilometre grid has been modified by densifying the network before interpolation. This has eliminated some anomalies where the index value for what should have been more remote points was interpolated from the nearest but less remote points.

The Remoteness Areas proposed in ABS Views on Remoteness were selected, at the remote end, to maintain some comparability with RRMA, both in terms of the remote areas and the size of the remote population. These classes have been adjusted slightly after the recalculation of ARIA to make the Remoteness Areas as contiguous as possible and still maintain reasonable agreement with RRMA. Users should note that while reasonable comparability with RRMA has been maintained at the remote end of the classification, RRMA and the ASGC Remoteness Structure are conceptually incompatible at the least remote end. For example, Darwin and Hobart are classed as 'Metropolitan' in RRMA but are in the second and third class respectively in the ASGC Remoteness Structure.

The most obvious change resulting from feedback from ABS Views on Remoteness is the names of the Remoteness Areas. In order to eliminate any possible confusion with the very specific meaning of 'accessibility' intrinsic in the GSAF, this word will not be used in the names of the classes. Having eliminated the word 'accessible', the ABS has had to find an acceptable alternative description for the opposite to remote.

By definition Urban Centres greater than 250,000 population have an ARIA score of zero. The least remote class of the ASGC Remoteness Structure includes these Urban Centres and their immediate surrounds — the area that has an ARIA score of up to 0.2. These are the major cities of Australia where the full range of services are available. So this name has been adopted for the least remote class.

The names for 'Remote Australia' and 'Very Remote Australia' remain unchanged. This leaves the middle two classes which are not remote but are removed from the largest cities in one way or another. While the new Remoteness Structure did not set out to define 'regional', ABS has chosen classes of Remoteness which are broadly compatible with this often quoted but ill-defined concept. This middle ground of remoteness is what most people consider 'regional Australia'. Some would include 'Remote Australia' and 'Very Remote Australia' within 'regional' while others might not. The classes as proposed cater for both options. There could be some debate about the treatment of Geelong, Wollongong and Newcastle, which are included in Major Cities, and about Darwin and Hobart which are included in Outer and Inner Regional Australia respectively. However, in the absence of any more definitive nomenclature ABS believes that the middle classes of the Remoteness Structure soundly represent Regional Australia for statistical purposes.

The new Remoteness Areas for the ASGC Remoteness Structure therefore become:

Major Cities of Australia: CDs with an average ARIA index value of 0 to 0.2

Inner Regional Australia: CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 0.2 and less than or equal to 2.4

Outer Regional Australia: CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 2.4 and less than or equal to 5.92

Remote Australia: CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 5.92 and less than or equal to 10.53

Very Remote Australia: CDs with an average ARIA index value greater than 10.53

Migratory: areas composed of off-shore, shipping and migratory CDs

Also as a result of feedback to ABS Views on Remoteness, the ABS will not publish average ARIA scores by CD or SLA. ASGC Remoteness Areas will be available for both 1996 and 2001 CDs but the average ARIA index value for CDs and other spatial units such as SLAs and postcodes, which may be generated by the ABS from time to time, will only be made available to clients on request and then only when the client has an understanding of the validity of such averages.

The ABS has taken this decision to:

- discourage the use of average score for an area in policy tools which would be better served by using a point measure; and
- to encourage the use of more appropriate policy tools where ARIA alone may not fully address the policy issues.

The ABS will publish a population weighted concordance for SLA to Remoteness Area so that SLA level data can be aggregated with reasonable accuracy to Remoteness Areas. Such a concordance will not be based on average ARIA score for an SLA but on the percentage of the population of the SLA which lies within the various Remoteness Areas.

4 EXAMPLE OF POPULATION WEIGHTED CONCORDANCE

SLA	*Remoteness Area*	*%*
Emerald (S)	Outer Regional Australia	79.76
	Remote Australia	19.59
	Very Remote Australia	0.65

CHAPTER 6 CONCLUSION

Having considered the feedback to *ABS Views on Remoteness* (Cat. no. 1244.0), the ABS will proceed with a Remoteness Structure using ARIA as the basis for the definition of Remoteness.

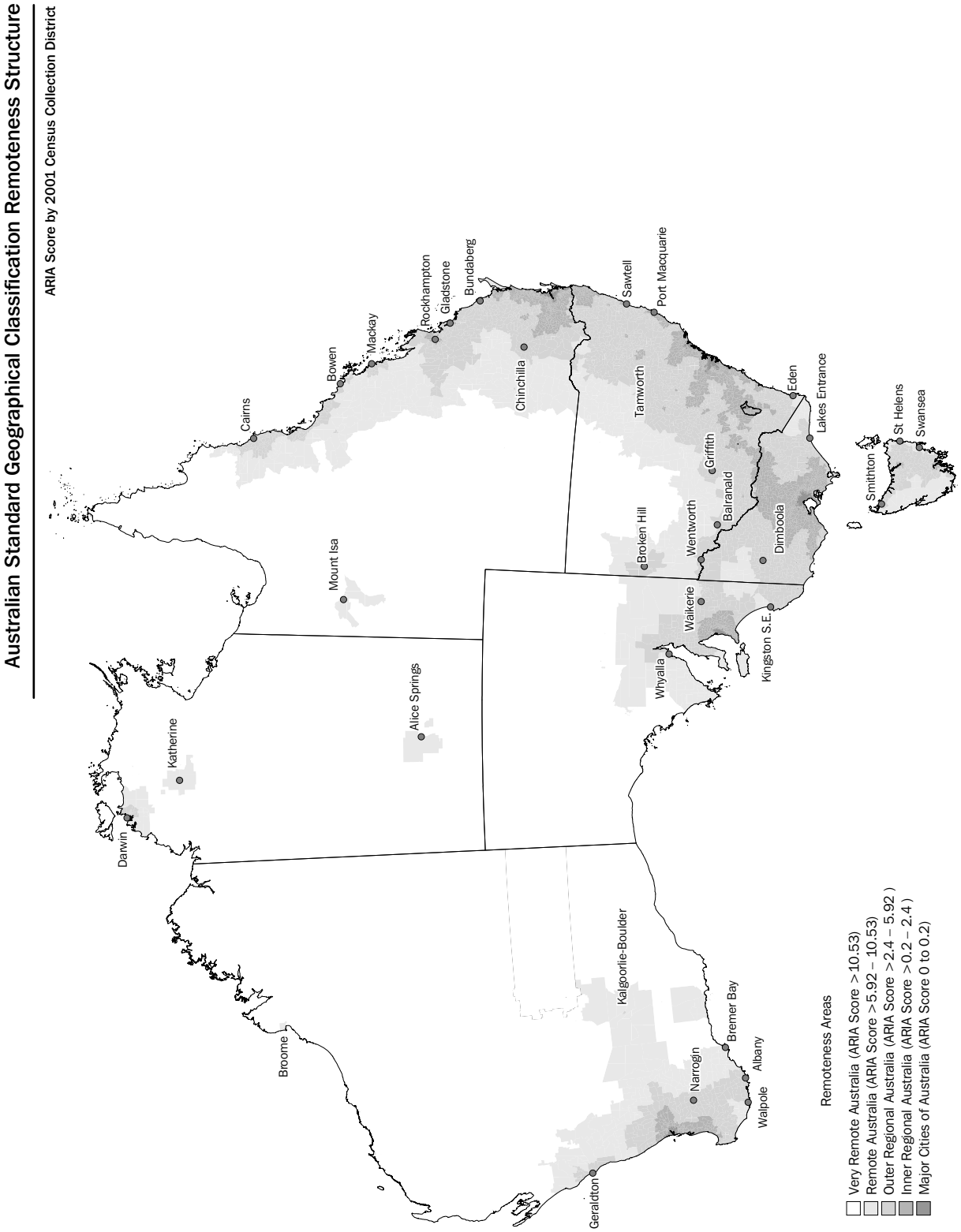
5 PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL STATE/TERRITORY POPULATION — 1996 CENSUS

	Remoteness Class					
	Major Cities of Australia	*Inner Regional Australia*	*Outer Regional Australia*	*Remote Australia*	*Very Remote Australia*	*Migratory*
State/Territory	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*
NSW	70.63	20.63	7.89	0.66	0.15	0.04
VIC	72.99	21.10	5.75	0.14	0.00	0.02
QLD	50.81	25.49	18.92	3.03	1.66	0.09
SA	71.77	11.67	12.34	3.13	1.05	0.04
WA	69.82	10.82	10.03	5.49	3.67	0.17
TAS	0.00	63.15	34.21	1.91	0.59	0.14
NT	0.00	0.00	51.05	24.03	24.66	0.26
ACT	99.79	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Other Territories	0.00	22.93	0.00	0.00	77.07	—

ARIA has been recalculated and the classes have been adjusted slightly. The names of the Remoteness Areas have been changed to avoid any possible confusion with the definitions and methodology of the GSAF. The new class names include two classes described as Regional Australia.

The ABS will also adopt procedures to discourage inappropriate use of the Remoteness Structure in policy development, implementation and evaluation and will encourage clients to consider what variables are most appropriate to the policy issue in question.

APPENDIX


Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Structure
ARIA Score by 2001 Census Collection District
Cairns
Bowen
Mackay
Rockhampton
Gladstone
Bundaberg
Chinchilla
Sawtell
Port Macquarie
Tamworth
Eden
Lakes Entrance
Griffith
Bairnald
Dimboola
Broken Hill
Wentworth
Waikerie
Kingston S.E.
Whyalla
Smithton
St Helens
Swansea
Mount Isa
Alice Springs
Katherine
Darwin
Broome
Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Bremer Bay
Albany
Narrogin
Walpole
Geraldton
Remoteness Areas
Very Remote Australia (ARIA Score > 10.53)
Remote Australia (ARIA Score > 5.92 – 10.53)
Outer Regional Australia (ARIA Score > 2.4 – 5.92)
Inner Regional Australia (ARIA Score > 0.2 – 2.4)
Major Cities of Australia (ARIA Score 0 to 0.2)

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