



**REGIONAL
AUSTRALIA**
INSTITUTE

Stocktake of Regional Research: 50 pieces of influential regional research

October, 2012

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
1. Introduction.....	4
2. Objective.....	5
3. Methodology.....	6
4. One-page summaries	7
5. Reflections on the 50	8
6. Usefulness for policy makers.....	9
7. One-page summaries for the 50 pieces of research	10
7.1 The New Rural Paradigm: Policies and Governance	11
7.2 Government Drought Support.....	12
7.3 Developing Australia’s Regions: Theory and Practice	13
7.4 Regional Development: Some issues for policy makers	14
7.5 Regional Economic Development: Analysis and Planning Strategy	15
7.6 A future for regional Australia: Escaping global misfortune	16
7.7 Investing in regions: Making a difference	17
7.8 2011-12 State of the Regions: Beyond the mining boom	18
7.9 Water availability in the Murray-Darling Basin. Summary of a report to the Australian Government from the CSIRO Murray-Darling Basin Sustainable Yields project.....	19
7.10 Australian Farm Surveys results: 2009-10 to 2011-12	20
7.11 Competitive sport and social capital in rural Australia.....	21
7.12 Small Town Decline and Survival: Trends, Success Factors and Policy Issues	22
7.13 The sustainability of Australia’s country towns: renewal, renaissance, resilience.....	23
7.14 Government interventions in pursuit of regional development: Learning from experience.	24
7.15 The value of Australia’s tropical river ecosystem services	25
7.16 Community impacts of the Guide to the proposed Murray-Darling Basic Plan.....	26
7.17 Lessons from the social and economic impacts of the mining boom in the Bowen Basin 2004-2006	27
7.18 Land of Discontent: The Dynamics of Change in Rural and Regional Australia	28
7.19 The changing social landscape of rural Victoria.....	29
7.20 Neo-liberalism and changing regional policy in Australia	30
7.21 Australia’s Health Workforce	31
7.22 Is there a case for regional policy?.....	32
7.23 Financial disadvantage in Australia - 1999	33
7.24 Q methodology and rural research.....	34
7.25 Cities and the Creative Class	35
7.26 The State of Rural Populations, a chapter in Sustainability and Change in Australia	36
7.27 Consolidation in Local Government: A Fresh Look (Volumes 1 and 2)	37
7.28 Cities and Communities that Work: Innovative Practices, Enabling Policies.....	38

7.29 Proposed Basin Plan – a revised draft, Proposed Basin Plan Consultation Report, Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan (and other accompanying documents)	39
7.30 Understanding and promoting adoption of conservation practices by rural landholders	40
7.31 The role of Landcare group networks in rural Australia: exploring the contribution of social capital.....	41
7.32 Indigenous Employment in the Australian Minerals Industry	42
7.33 Forestry, jobs and spending: Forest industry employment and expenditure in Tasmania, 2005-06	43
7.34 Social principles for agricultural extension to assist in the promotion of natural resource management.....	44
7.35 Decisions Made by Farmers that Relate to Climate Change	45
7.36 Workforce retention in rural and remote Australia: determining the factors that influence length of practice	46
7.37 England and the ‘New Regionalism’	47
7.38 From Pillar to Post? In search of the post-productivist countryside in Australia	48
7.39 Devolution and state planning systems in Australia	49
7.40 Building Competitive Regions: Strategies and Governance	50
7.41 Neoliberalism and the Institutions for Regional Development in Australia.....	51
7.42 Economic Implications of an Ageing Australia.....	52
7.43 Report on Government Services	53
7.44 Participation and governance in regional development: Global trends in an Australian context	54
7.45 Changing Governance of Australian Regional Development: Systems and Effectiveness ..	55
7.46 Australia’s Changing Economic Geography: A Society Dividing.....	56
7.47 Supermarket Own Brands, Supply Chains and the Transformation of the Agri-food System	57
7.48 The restructuring of Australia’s rural communities, a chapter in Land of Discontent: The Dynamics of Change in Rural and Regional Australia	58
7.49 Policies for the future of regional Australia	59
7.50 Home Truths: Property Ownership and Housing Wealth in Australia.....	60

Acknowledgements

The Regional Australia Institute would like to acknowledge and thank the team from Marsden Jacob Associates for their work in completing the Stocktake of Regional Research.

The Regional Australia Institute was established with support from the Australian Government.

1. Introduction

Since the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) was established in late 2011, many researchers and users of research in regions and government have spoken to RAI about the on-going challenge of connecting with relevant existing knowledge about regional development.

The Stocktake of Regional Research is a first step in creating a long term solution to this issue. The project provides people involved in regional development with easier access to the latest knowledge. The project also supports researchers who want to see their work taken up and used for the benefit of regions to connect their insights to decision makers.

A key component of the project was a full literature search, which was completed using a Systematic Review methodology. Research was also captured via a search of grey literature and through hand searching. After filtering, all research was entered into the research database – the RAI Regional Knowledge Base – and was categorised according to a list of 50 topics, which, in turn, were bundled into five groups – Industry, Environment and Energy, Economy, Population and People, and Process.

As at the time of writing 1415 research items had been identified, filtered and entered into the RAI Regional Knowledge Base. A separate gap analysis and four literature reviews for each RAI theme were completed.

In addition, the *Stocktake of Regional Research* project required an estimation of the 50 most influential pieces of research from among the research captured in the RAI Regional Knowledge Base.

This is a summary note covering an estimation of the 50 most influential pieces of research. This summary note should be read in conjunction with the separate literature reviews prepared for each of the four RAI themes, which provide greater detail on the gaps and research needs for each theme, as well as the gap analysis, which were prepared in light of RAI's four research themes, namely:

- Theme 1 - Position and Potential: potential for new growth and prosperity in each region;
- Theme 2 - Realising Opportunities: understand how opportunities for growth and development can translate into tangible benefits for regions;
- Theme 3 - Successful Transitions: develop better strategies for communities in transition to enable them to cope with change; and
- Theme 4 - Better Services and Engagement: better ways of engaging regional communities and delivering services.

2. Objective

The objective of seeking to determine the 50 most influential pieces of research was to obtain a clearer understanding of what research had, for better or worse, most influenced the thinking of researchers and policy makers in working on regional development issues in Australia.

3. Methodology

The first decision was to have a larger list, settling on the number of 50, which they initially thought might represent 5 per cent of the population of the RAI Regional Knowledge Base. As the population of the RAI Regional Knowledge Base has expanded beyond original expectations, it will represent a smaller percentage than anticipated.

In order to identify the 50 most influential pieces of regional research, the project relied on a combination of consultation methods with researchers, stakeholders and policy makers in the field, as well as online tools such as Google Scholar's Citations Gadget.

The consultation process began with the supplementation of RAI's subscriber list. RAI requested that current subscribers encourage their extended networks to subscribe to the RAI mailing list to allow for a broader holistic engagement process for the project. The team also contacted its network, requesting those with an interest or involvement in regional issues subscribe to the RAI website.

Next, an online survey was sent out to the increased subscriber list. This survey covered a range of topics, including views on the most influential authors, organisations and individual pieces of research. A wide range of helpful feedback was provided by 113 respondents.

The team also conducted face-to-face (and where this was not possible, telephone) interviews with around 60 policy makers, researchers and stakeholders around Australia. Those interviewed were forthcoming in views on influential regional research, authors and organisations.

When compiling the list of the 50 most influential pieces of research, the team developed a scoring method based on survey and consultation responses. This was supplemented by desktop research, including the use of Google Scholar and its useful Citations Gadget, which shows how many citations a particular piece of research has achieved within Google Scholar's database. Google Scholar also allows the user to click through to the citing links.

The team did not seek to make a critical analysis of each piece of research, or the soundness or relevance of its conclusions. Please note that the list of 50 is not in strict order from most influential to least influential, however those pieces of research thought to be more influential have been grouped towards the start of the list of 50.

4. One-page summaries

Once the list of 50 was compiled, the team began to develop one-page summaries of each of the 50 pieces of research. These briefly outline the title, author, year, and abstract or key findings of the research, followed by an analysis of why that particular piece of research is thought to be influential, as well as a discussion of the potential limitations of the research for use in policy making or the need for complementary analysis.

A number of pieces of research that made it into the top 50 have arguably influenced the regional research community more than they have influenced policy makers. In general, as outlined below, there appears to be a disconnect between research on regional issues and policy making.

5. Reflections on the 50

In terms of the final list of 50 pieces of research, some results were more clear-cut than others. For example, the Productivity Commission, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Andrew Beer were all thought to be highly influential in regional research by many of those who responded to the survey or participated in interviews.

Beyond these top three, the top 20 or so authors were clearly influential in regional research according to the results of the consultation process, receiving multiple mentions across the survey and interviews.

The remaining 30 or so authors and organisations were still all mentioned numerous times by those consulted, but not to the same extent as those in the top 20.

A limitation to this list of 50 is that the team had to rely to some extent on citation of an influential author and organisation, rather than a specific piece of research. In some cases, a particular paper, book or other form of research had clearly been more influential than another work by the same author or organisation. However in other cases it was more difficult to single out one piece of research. To do this, the team has relied on survey and consultation views where possible, Google Scholar and their own judgement.

The majority of the top 50 pieces of research deal with: regional economic growth; the status of regions; regional policy; and other high-level economic and social development-related issues. There are a smaller number of more specialised works within the top 50, such as a useful paper on the consolidation of local government. This aligns with the findings of the literature reviews and gap analysis that the broad-brush issue of how to achieve economic and social development in regional Australia is at the forefront of policy maker, researcher and stakeholder minds.

6. Usefulness for policy makers

In terms of the relevance or usefulness of the top 50 pieces of research for policy makers, there are clearly many research resources available that could be used by policy makers to understand a regional development policy situation or issue better or identify policy options.

However, on the whole, most research is not easily accessible or digestible for policy makers. It is telling that the work of the Productivity Commission and OECD was considered the most influential (by both policy makers and researchers), as both of these organisations develop research that is squarely targeted at the work and needs of policy makers.

Academic items or books in the top 50 pieces of research, on the other hand, are not as easily accessed by policy makers.

Hence, ways of distilling the lessons from these high quality and informative research pieces into a format that can be readily accessed, used and adopted by policy makers would be highly beneficial, and improved policy making outcomes would potentially follow.

7. One-page summaries for the 50 pieces of research

7.1 The New Rural Paradigm: Policies and Governance

7.1 The New Rural Paradigm: Policies and Governance	
Author/Editor	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Rapid change in the international economy – globalisation, improved communications and reduced transportation costs, changing trade patterns for commodities, and the emergence of important non-farm activities in rural regions – confront rural regions with some obvious threats but also with significant opportunities. Against this background, policy makers increasingly recognise that traditional sectoral policies need to be upgraded and, in some cases, phased out and substituted with more appropriate instruments. Particular concerns are raised by the modest positive impact that agricultural subsidies have on general economic performance even in the most farming dependent communities. Indeed, with farm families relying increasingly on off-farm employment, the economic success of rural communities will depend on the development of new economic engines.</p> <p>In this context, OECD governments are showing increasing interest in a more place-based approach to rural policy that emphasises investments rather than subsidies and that is able to integrate different sectoral policies and improve the coherence and effectiveness of public expenditure in rural areas.</p> <p>This report focuses on the reorientation of policy that has been observed through a series of reviews of territorial policy at the national level and a number of case studies of policy strategies in rural regions. The evidence suggests that the shift in policy towards a ‘new rural paradigm’ concerns both: 1) changes in the policy focus, and 2) adjustments to the governance structure.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>The regional development and policy work of the OECD was frequently identified as being influential by those consulted as part of this project.</p> <p>The new paradigm approaches (such as focusing on places rather than sectors, or moving from a subsidy to investment focus) provide a useful framework for thinking about rural and regional policy.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	<p>This research should be highly relevant to policy; particularly given the mission of the OECD is to provide policies that will improve the economic and social wellbeing of people around the world. The document provides approaches for implementing the new paradigm framework. Case studies from other countries may also provide useful examples for Australia. Complementary analysis may include application of this research to Australian contexts.</p>
Year	2006
Country, State/Region	France, Paris

7.2 Government Drought Support

7.2 Government Drought Support	
Author/Editor	Productivity Commission
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>The Productivity Commission was asked to undertake a public inquiry into the government drought support arrangements in Australia. The Commission was asked to identify the most appropriate way for governments to assist farmers, farm businesses and farm-dependent rural small businesses improve their self-reliance and preparedness for drought events.</p> <p>Specifically, the Commission was requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ report on the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments' business support and income support measures; ▪ identify impediments to improving self-reliance and preparedness for periods of financial difficulty; and ▪ identify the most appropriate, effective and efficient responses by Commonwealth, state and territory governments, to build self-reliance and preparedness to manage drought.
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>Both survey respondents and interviewees saw the Productivity Commission as highly influential with regards to regional policy in Australia. That the work of the Productivity Commission is influential with policy makers is understandable, given that it is demand driven by nature (the government refers matters to the Commission for enquiry).</p> <p>The <i>Government Drought Support</i> report preceded the Western Australia Drought Pilot, which tests a package of new measures developed in response to the national review of drought policy. That the work of the Commission was responded to (albeit via a pilot study) demonstrates the influence the report had on policy makers. The <i>Government Drought Support</i> report has 23 citations on Google Scholar and the inquiry received 182 public submissions.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	<p>The findings and recommendations are designed to be specific enough to be implemented by governments and policy makers.</p> <p>However, Productivity Commission findings and recommendations are sometimes unpopular and politically difficult to implement. The fact that a national roll-out of the recommendations of the <i>Government Drought Support</i> report has not yet occurred demonstrates this.</p> <p>Moreover, Commission recommendations often require cooperation between various levels of government and states and territories, which can be politically difficult to achieve.</p>
Year	2009
Country, State/Region	Australia, Melbourne

7.3 Developing Australia's Regions: Theory and Practice

7.3 Developing Australia's Regions: Theory and Practice	
Author/Editor	Andrew Beer, Alaric Maude, Bill Pritchard
Research objective/ Abstract	<p><i>Developing Australia's Regions</i> delves behind the too-often negative media headlines and stereotypes about regional Australia, and considers the true state of Australia's regions, including metropolitan regions, and what can be done to improve their economic, social and environmental wellbeing.</p> <p>It draws on national and international experience as well as regional development theory to set out the principles and strategies that can be used to establish a stronger future for our regions.</p> <p>It's a 'hands-on' book that provides concrete guidance for policy makers, local government officials and economic development practitioners and will allow readers to better understand the often complex world of regional development and policy.</p> <p><i>Developing Australia's Regions</i> considers these key issues for Australia's regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ government policy in promoting economic development; ■ the achievements of economic development agencies; ■ how we can best achieve 'Green Regions' that are both internationally competitive and ecologically sustainable; ■ the promotion of new industries and new firms, whether low, medium or high technology; and ■ the future for regional policy in Australia, and the choices Australia faces in attempting to develop both a strong national economy and a vibrant set of regions.
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>This book has 154 citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p><i>Developing Australia's Regions</i> was mentioned specifically in the online survey. Moreover, Andrew Beer and Bill Pritchard were often seen by those consulted during interviews and as part of the online survey as being influential authors in relation to regional issues.</p> <p>This work is also influential and useful in that it links the theories of regional development with practice.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Complementary analysis could include short policy pieces/briefings that distil particular messages from this book into digestible pieces for policy makers.
Year	2003
Country, State/Region	Australia, Sydney

7.4 Regional Development: Some issues for policy makers

Regional Australia Institute	
Author/Editor	Tony Sorensen
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>This research paper questioned the proclaimed economic and social crisis in regional Australia at that time. Sorensen critically examined claims of regional disadvantage and examined the factors that influence regional economic and social conditions.</p> <p>The paper highlighted that policy makers confront a slate of dilemmas in relation to regional policy, including that governments do not exert much control or influence over many of the variables that heavily influence regional prosperity, including social capital, demography, lifestyle preferences, new technologies, and globalisation of the economy and polity.</p> <p>Sorensen argues that regional economic development ultimately depends on the entrepreneurship of farmers and business people aided by risk capital, business skills, social and human capital and civic entrepreneurship. He also contends that conditions in regional Australia, in relation to issues such as disadvantage, are spatially diverse and that regional conditions are dynamic.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p><i>Regional Development: Some issues for policy makers</i> has 23 citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p>This research is influential because it was prepared and distributed to Senators and Members of Parliament. It provides useful analysis on the historical and constitutional roles of the different levels of government, development issues and other relevant factors.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Complementary analysis that provides policy makers with policy options and solutions that are based on the analysis in this paper may be beneficial.
Year	2000
Journal Name	Department of the Parliamentary Library, Information and Research Services
Country, State/Region	Australia, Canberra

7.5 Regional Economic Development: Analysis and Planning Strategy

Author/Editor	Robert Stimson, Roger Stough and Brian H. Roberts
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>The second edition of this book is completely re-edited, making the book even more valuable for graduate students, reflecting recent advances and adding insightful new material.</p> <p>The book is about the analysis of regional economic performance and change, and how analysis integrates with strategies for local and regional economic development policy and planning. First, the book provides the reader with an overview of key theoretical and conceptual contexts within which the economic development process takes place. However, the deliberate emphasis is to provide the reader with an account of quantitative and qualitative approaches to regional economic analysis and of old and new strategic frameworks for formulating regional economic development planning.</p> <p>The second edition brings to the present its original thesis about the need for regions to be fast and flexible, but also to be proactive in order to be prepared to experience increasingly greater shocks while having less time to adjust their economic development to achieve sustainability. This is underscored by events that have occurred since 2001: 9/11 terrorist attacks, continuing rapid advances in technology, the rise of China and India, the Tsunami, and all the known ongoing and unforeseen risks and challenges that confront nations around the globe and the regions and localities within them.</p> <p>The book presents strategies and the traditional and expanded methods used to create and implement them.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p><i>Regional Economic Development: Analysis and Planning Strategy</i> has 173 citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p>As an economics textbook, this work provides solid theoretical foundations and tools for thinking about regional development economics.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Complementary analysis that takes the theories and tools outlined in this book and applies them to current Australian examples would be beneficial for policy makers.
Year	2006
Country, State/Region	United States of America, New York

7.6 A future for regional Australia: Escaping global misfortune

7.6 A future for regional Australia: Escaping global misfortune	
Author/Editor	Ian Gray, Geoffrey Lawrence
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>This book interprets the predicament faced by Australia's regional people from their own perspective and proposes a means by which they can act together to find a secure future under globalisation. It argues that neoliberalism in combination with its 'real world' effects in economic policy are driving regional Australia further into social, environmental and economic decay.</p> <p>The book will be of great interest to all concerned about the future of regional Australia, and will make a lively and relevant text for students studying the social sciences in the countryside or in the major cities.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>This book has been heavily cited, with 334 citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p>Further, Geoffrey Lawrence was named by many of those consulted as being an influential author in regional research.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	<p>Policy makers may have difficulty finding the time to read and synthesise a 258-page book. Moreover, this book provides an ideological argument criticising neoliberalism and economic policy and presents a bleak future for regional Australia.</p> <p>The actionable suggestions in this book are mostly directed at regional peoples themselves, rather than policy makers.</p>
Year	2001
Country, State/Region	United Kingdom, Cambridge

7.7 Investing in regions: Making a difference

Author/Editor	John Daley and Annette Lancy, Grattan Institute
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>For nearly a hundred years, governments have spent a lot of money trying to promote economic growth in regional Australia. The 2011-2012 Federal Budget was no exception, with \$4.3 billion worth of programs announced to help “unlock the economic potential of our regions”. But governments are already spending more than \$2 billion a year on programs for regional Australia that fail to produce the economic growth they are explicitly designed to achieve.</p> <p><i>Investing in regions: Making a difference</i> shows that unless governments recognise the fast-changing reality of regional Australia, they will continue to both waste money and deprive many citizens of much-needed services.</p> <p>Some regions are growing fast – and often missing out on services – while some are growing slowly or even shrinking. When these latter regions lack sustainable economic foundations, no amount of government money can provide it. Instead, governments should put development funds where people and jobs want to go.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>The Grattan Institute report was seen as being highly influential by a number of people consulted as part of this project (although it was not always viewed in a positive light). Descriptions of the report included “accessible and well promoted”, “glossy” and “raised questions”.</p> <p>The report was promoted through the media, with op-eds on <i>Investing in regions: Making a difference</i> appearing in the AFR, the West Australian, The Australian and on The Conversation.</p> <p><i>Investing in regions: Making a difference</i> had nine citations on Google Scholar.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	This Grattan Institute report was criticised by a number of researchers as lacking rigour.
Year	2011
Country, State/Region	Australia, Melbourne

7.8 2011-12 State of the Regions: Beyond the mining boom

7.8 2011-12 State of the Regions: Beyond the mining boom	
Author/Editor	National Economics (for the Australian Local Government Association)
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>This is the 12th <i>State of the Regions</i> report. The report is commissioned by ALGA and prepared by National Economics.</p> <p>The <i>State of the Regions</i> report for 2011-12 critically examines the impact of the current mining boom: what are the real benefits and costs, and what are implications for Australia's regions into the future. A case study on Norway's experience with managing their oil boom is also included.</p> <p>The report presents an updated discussion on the trends in population, looking at the growth in population and the impacts this is having on business productivity.</p> <p>Others issues examined as part of the report, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the state of housing demand and supply; ■ the capacity of households to pay for housing; ■ levels of house prices and mortgage burdens; ■ measures of regional divergence; ■ telecommunications; ■ the NBN - basic costs and benefits; and ■ climate change - an international update. <p>The report provides considerable evidence and arguments that reinforce that all levels of government need to be proactive in addressing national disparity if Australia is to avoid the 'boom and bust' economics of the past.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>A number of those consulted and surveyed identified the <i>State of the Regions</i> report as being influential. In addition, the report has received a relatively high level of media attention around its annual release.</p> <p>The <i>State of the Regions</i> report appears to influence people at the regional/local government level. The report is officially launched at the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum, held each June in Canberra.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	
Year	2011
Country, State/Region	Australia, Melbourne

7.9 Water availability in the Murray-Darling Basin. Summary of a report to the Australian Government from the CSIRO Murray-Darling Basin Sustainable Yields project

Author/Editor	CSIRO
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>CSIRO, through the Water for a Healthy Country National Research Flagship, has completed a series of reports which assess current and future water availability in the Murray-Darling Basin.</p> <p>CSIRO was contracted by the National Water Commission to provide the assessments, which led to the world's largest basin-scale investigation of the impacts on water resources of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ catchment development ■ changing groundwater extraction ■ climate variability; and ■ climate change.
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>The CSIRO Sustainable Yields project significantly influenced the process prior to and during the development of the Murray Darling Basin Plan. The summary report notes:</p> <p>“The project is a world first for rigorous and detailed basin-scale assessment of the anticipated impacts of climate change, catchment development and increasing groundwater extraction on the availability and use of water resources. It represents the most comprehensive hydrologic modelling ever undertaken for the entire MDB including modelling of rainfall runoff and groundwater recharge across the entire MDB, fully linked modelling of all major river systems and modelling of the major groundwater systems of the MDB and their connections to the surface water system.”</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	<p>The Sustainable Yields Project was a highly significant input to policy making. However as a scientific report, it does not provide policy analysis.</p>
Year	2008
Country, State/Region	Australia

7.10 Australian Farm Surveys results: 2009-10 to 2011-12

- 1) Farm performance: broadacre and dairy farms, 2009-10 to 2011-12
- 2) Agricultural productivity: trends and policies for growth
- 3) Survey methods and definitions

7.10 Australian Farm Surveys results: 2009-10 to 2011-12	
Author/Editor	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The average financial performance of Australian broadacre farms is expected to remain strong in 2011-12. At the national level, average farm cash income for broadacre farms is projected to decrease only slightly from an average of \$117,300 per farm in 2010-11 to \$116,000 per farm in 2011-12. 2) In agriculture, total factor productivity (TFP) growth reflects improvements in the efficiency with which farmers combine market inputs to produce outputs. It is an important determinant of profitability in the farm sector. There are a number of opportunities for governments and industry to consider in promoting productivity growth. These include investing in R&D and extension, building the knowledge and skills of farmers, facilitating structural adjustment and reducing regulatory burdens. 3) ABARES (and its predecessor organisations) have conducted surveys of selected Australian agricultural industries since the 1940s. These surveys provide a broad range of information on the economic performance of farm business units in the rural sector. The annual agricultural surveys currently undertaken are: Australian Agricultural and Grazing Industries Survey (AAGIS); and Australian Dairy Industry Survey (ADIS).
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>The ABARES broadacre and dairy farm performance results are useful to a range of policy makers (such as those in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) as an indicator of current and recent conditions. The chapter <i>Agricultural productivity: trends and policies for growth</i> is also informative for policy makers, and provides a range of potential policy responses.</p> <p>A number of survey respondents and consulted stakeholders identified ABARES as an influential organisation in the context of regional research.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	One stakeholder noted during consultations that the ABARES farm surveys do not select large enough sample sizes to allow regional pictures to be formed.
Year	2002
Country, State/Region	Australia, Canberra

7.11 Competitive sport and social capital in rural Australia

7.11 Competitive sport and social capital in rural Australia	
Author/Editor	Matthew Tonts
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Sport is often regarded as an important part of life in rural Australia, contributing to community identity, sense of place, social interaction and good health. The involvement of rural citizens in sport also has the potential to contribute to social capital. Understood in simple terms as norms of reciprocity and associational life, social capital is often regarded as a positive resource in rural areas.</p> <p>Drawing on a case study of the Northern Wheatbelt of Western Australia, this paper examines the links between sport and social capital in a rural region. In particular, it considers the ways in which sport acts as a vehicle for the creation and expression of social capital. The paper also considers the so-called darker side to social capital, and the extent to which this is evident in the Northern Wheatbelt.</p> <p>The paper shows that sport is an important arena for the creation and maintenance of social capital. However, it is also clear that this is being eroded as a result of wider processes of economic and social restructuring in rural Australia. The paper also points out that the social capital generated by sport is often fragile, and can lead to social exclusion and marginality for some residents.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>Matthew Tonts was identified as being an influential researcher in regional issues by a number of stakeholders and survey respondents, including for this work on competitive sport and social capital.</p> <p>This paper has 83 citations on Google Scholar.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	No clear policy recommendations flow from this paper, so while it may be informative for policy makers concerned about sport and social inclusion, it is not a directly applicable work in a policy making sense.
Year	2005
Journal Name	Journal of Rural Studies
Country, State/Region	Australia, Western Australia

7.12 Small Town Decline and Survival: Trends, Success Factors and Policy Issues

7.12 Small Town Decline and Survival: Trends, Success Factors and Policy Issues	
Author/Editor	Paul Collits
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>The debate in the national media continues about the regional divides in Australia. Recent research has attempted to isolate the chief characteristics of the emerging inequalities in Australian society, and the consensus is, firstly, that the widening disparities in wealth have a spatial dimension, and secondly, that one of the divides is between metropolitan and non-metropolitan regions.</p> <p>There is, sometimes, a very glib approach in the media to the question of the city versus country divide. There are, broadly, two views – the ‘regional Australia is dying’ view, and the ‘regional Australia is doing well’ view. There is often a lack of recognition of the complexity of regional development. Governments, of course, want to accentuate the positive. The media tends to focus on ‘dying’ rural towns.</p> <p>The truth lies somewhere in between.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>Paul Collits was identified by numerous survey respondents as being an influential author in relation to regional issues. This particular paper has 29 citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p><i>Small Town Decline and Survival</i> is particularly useful for policy makers in a theoretical/ideological sense as it briefly and simply explains the four main views on what Collits calls ‘Small Town Problems’.</p> <p>The paper also covers a number of other topics of interest to policy makers including: Key Drivers of Growth at the Local Level; Key Local Economic Development Success Factors; Strategies for Success; The Role of Government and Communities in Driving Local Development; and What Can Governments Do to Help Small Towns?</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	As this paper is quite long, a condensed version may have more ability to influence policy makers.
Year	2000
Journal Name	Paper presented to the ‘Future of Australia’s Country Towns’ Conference at La Trobe University, Bendigo, June 2000.
Country, State/Region	Australia, Sydney

7.13 The sustainability of Australia's country towns: renewal, renaissance, resilience

7.13 The sustainability of Australia's country towns: renewal, renaissance, resilience	
Author/Editor	John Martin, Trevor Budge and the Centre for Sustainable Regional Communities
Research objective/ Abstract	<p>This recently published book is based on the third Australian Country Towns conference held in Bendigo late in 2010 and is a timely reminder of the diversity of Australia's country towns and the unique challenges each faces.</p> <p>Over 17 chapters, the book considers the sustainability of these places from a number of perspectives: leadership; decentralisation policy; mobility; lifestyle choices; ageing; housing; agriculture and forestry; retail; youth; health; and finally, art and culture.</p> <p>This eclectic mix of papers reveals the multidimensional nature of sustainability as applied to Australia's country towns. The book emphasises the important role regional associations and local government play in ensuring the sustainability of our country towns.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>John Martin was mentioned a number of times in the consultations and also in the online survey, and Trevor Budge was also mentioned to a lesser extent.</p> <p>This book was specifically mentioned in both the consultation and the survey and John Martin's work on Australian country towns was mentioned several times in the consultations as influential.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Given its length (382 pages), short policy pieces/briefings distilling the key points from each chapter for policy makers would be useful complementary analysis.
Year	2011
Country, State/Region	Australia

7.14 Government interventions in pursuit of regional development: Learning from experience

7.14 Government interventions in pursuit of regional development: Learning from experience	
Author/Editor	Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>The questions of why regions grow or fail to grow, and what, if anything, governments can do about it, have attracted considerable interest and debate for many years.</p> <p>This report provides a select review of previous government intervention approaches and experiences in pursuit of regional development. The review provides useful insights into the purpose and outcomes of various government-sponsored interventions in Australia, and in a number of other comparable countries.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>The Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics was identified by a number of consulted stakeholders and online survey respondents as being highly influential in terms of regional issues.</p> <p><i>Government interventions in pursuit of regional development</i> is quite comprehensive, covering: Regional Development Theory and Policy; Australian and International Experience; and Policy Implications. The appendices are also informative, including regional case studies, other regional comparisons and an appendix on regional development theories.</p> <p>The report includes simple and clear advice/recommendations for policy makers. The Executive Summary allows for quick digestion of the report's main messages.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	An updated version of this report would be useful, including an analysis of whether its recommendation relating to the monitoring and evaluation of regional interventions has been adopted and to what extent.
Year	2003
Country, State/Region	Australia, Canberra

7.15 The value of Australia's tropical river ecosystem services

Author/Editor	Anna Straton and Kerstin Zander, Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge
Research objective/ Abstract	<p>The tropical rivers and groundwater systems of northern Australia contain approximately 70% of Australia's freshwater resources (Hamilton and Gehrke, 2005). These tropical river systems provide ecosystem services that underpin the survival and wellbeing of people; multiple industries, such as pastoralism and horticulture; activities, such as cultural resource management and recreational fishing; and the continued health and functioning of the ecosystems of the region.</p> <p>This project provides assessments of the potential impacts of future development scenarios on the ecosystem services of Australia's tropical rivers. In doing so, this work builds on existing knowledge of the values and assets of Australia's tropical rivers by identifying the ecosystem services of Australia's tropical river systems, their contribution to human wellbeing, and the drivers that impact on them.</p> <p>Some similarities across the case studies for economic valuation of the three tropical river systems were found, which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ respondents for all three rivers value the highest level condition of waterholes important to Aboriginal people the most; and ■ respondents for all three rivers living in a city are willing to pay more for the highest levels of area of floodplain in good environmental condition, quality of the river for recreational fishing and condition of waterholes important to Aboriginal people than the medium levels, and more for the medium level of income from irrigated agriculture than the highest level. <p>This indicates that people generally want to see the maintenance of tropical river systems in excellent condition for environmental, recreational and cultural values and uses, and they value medium rather than large-scale expansion of irrigated agriculture.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	TRaCK was mentioned a number of times during consultations, and also had several mentions in the online survey. In addition, this report had four citations on Google Scholar. This project is influential as it helps to establish position and potential of tropical river systems.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	<p>The report raises relevant questions, however it often concludes more research is required to properly answer these.</p> <p>Complementary analysis could include further research on specific questions.</p>
Year	2009
Country, State/Region	Australia, Northern Australia

7.16 Community impacts of the Guide to the proposed Murray-Darling Basic Plan

Author/Editor	EBC, RMCG, Marsden Jacob Associates, EconSearch, G. McLeod, T. Cummins, G. Roth and D. Cornish
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>This report assesses the likely social, human, financial and economic implications of the proposals in the 'Guide to the proposed [Murray-Darling] Basin Plan' on local communities across the Basin's 19 regions.</p> <p>The primary objective was to understand the impacts on local, small-scale, human issues and costs during the short and medium term.</p> <p>The report consists of nine volumes:</p> <p>Volume 1: Executive Summary</p> <p>Volume 2: Methodology</p> <p>Volume 2 Appendix: Economic analysis of alternative SDL options - ABARES</p> <p>Volume 3: Community Impacts</p> <p>Volume 4: Informing Choices</p> <p>Volume 5: Regional analysis - Southern Basin Overview</p> <p>Volume 6: Regional analysis - Queensland</p> <p>Volume 7: Regional analysis - New South Wales</p> <p>Volume 8: Regional analysis - Victoria</p> <p>Volume 9: Regional analysis - South Australia</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	This report and Marsden Jacob Associates were mentioned a number of times during consultations and in the online survey as being influential. This report is also likely to be quite well known among stakeholders due to the extensive consultation that occurred as part of it.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	The community impacts report is a comprehensive document with a number of long chapters. This may limit its ability to be digested by policy makers, particularly those outside the commissioning authority.
Year	2011
Country, State/Region	Australia, Canberra

7.17 Lessons from the social and economic impacts of the mining boom in the Bowen Basin 2004-2006

Author/Editor	John Role, Bob Miles, Stewart Lockie and Galina Ivanova
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>The coal industry boom in Central Queensland's Bowen Basin has generated a number of positive economic and social impacts including increased employment, income and expenditure levels. The spike in international demand for coal since 2003 has resulted in an overlapping occurrence of an unprecedented number of new mine developments, expansion of existing mines, exploration activity and the construction of infrastructure to service the mining industry.</p> <p>However, positive economic impacts on smaller communities servicing the region have been limited by the use of non-resident workers, the impacts of 'Dutch Disease' on other industries and resources, and shortages in housing and infrastructure. The concerns are that local communities may be shouldering many of the costs of accommodating new developments while the benefits flow more broadly to regional and state centres.</p> <p>Lessons from the resource boom suggest that greater attention needs to be paid to housing supply, labour supply, information flows, project approvals, and the integration and interdependence of planning issues.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>This paper has 22 citations on Google Scholar. The authors (particularly John Rolfe and Stewart Lockie) were identified during consultations as being influential in regional research.</p> <p>The paper is useful in that it provides both an analysis of the impact of higher growth in the resources sector on the Bowen Basin region and provides strategies to deal with growth pressures. The key recommendations are clear, concise and small enough in number for policy makers to digest.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Complementary analysis into the key recommendation areas could be beneficial for policy makers, namely research into: mechanisms to improve the supply of housing; improving the supply of labour; mechanisms to improve information flows between levels of government; better and more flexible planning; a planned approach to improving liveability and lifestyle amenity; adjustment of the EIS process; and a planning and approval process that identifies responsibilities and funding for infrastructure and service requirements associated with new projects.
Year	2007
Journal Name	Australian Journal of Regional Studies
Country, State/Region	Australia, Rockhampton

7.18 Land of Discontent: The Dynamics of Change in Rural and Regional Australia

7.18 Land of Discontent: The Dynamics of Change in Rural and Regional Australia	
Author/Editor	Bill Pritchard and Phil McManus (editors)
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>The last decade has been one of profound change in rural and regional Australia, with the resulting shock waves resonating across the entire country as traditional political allegiances and notions of our national identity are challenged and reshaped.</p> <p><i>Land of Discontent: The Dynamics of Change in Rural and Regional Australia</i> is a must-read book for anybody attempting to understand the dynamics of change in contemporary rural and regional Australia. Within it an array of eminent social scientists from different parts of the country expose the complex and often contradictory forces that are affecting the lives of many Australians.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>This book contains numerous well-known and respected researchers on regional issues, including the editors Bill Pritchard and Phil McManus, as well as contributors such as Fiona Haslam-McKenzie, Stewart Lockie, Geoffrey Lawrence and Matthew Tonts.</p> <p>A number of the contributors to this book, as well as the work itself, were identified numerous times during the online survey and consultation process as being influential.</p> <p><i>Land of Discontent</i> has 123 citations on Google Scholar.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	<p>Policy makers may not have time to read and digest a 230-page book. Moreover, the lack of economist contributions to the book may be perceived by policy makers as reducing its usefulness in the context of policy development.</p>
Year	2000
Country, State/Region	Australia, Sydney

7.19 The changing social landscape of rural Victoria

7.19 The changing social landscape of rural Victoria	
Author/Editor	Neil Barr
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Over the past 20 years there has been much publicity about the decline of rural communities. The withdrawal of services, continued decline in population in some small towns and aging population structures have been a recurring theme in the media with the release of each new set of population statistics.</p> <p>This report is focused upon agricultural industries of Victoria and the rural community that works in these industries or supports them. Although a relatively small and declining segment of Victoria's population, the farm community manages a disproportionate share of the State's land. Further, in many regional areas there are important links between farm output and regional economies.</p> <p>Understanding the future shape of this community is also important for our management of the State's land, water and biodiversity resources. Understanding the social trends that will shape the future farm community is important in assisting us to understand the potential and limits to government policy in rural areas.</p> <p>The report describes four social landscapes in rural Victoria and the social forces that are driving these landscapes on differing trajectories of change. The interaction and relative influences of productivity, amenity, culture and demographic forces will reshape the social landscape of Victorian rural communities over the next 20 years, much as it has already reshaped the present social landscape over the past 20 years.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>Neil Barr was identified by a number of stakeholders and survey respondents as being an influential researcher in regional issues. This book was specifically identified by a survey respondent. <i>The changing social landscape of rural Victoria</i> has received 74 citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p>Given that it was published by the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, this report would have been highly influential for policy makers. At only 18 pages long, it is also relatively digestible research for use by policy makers.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	
Year	2005
Country, State/Region	Australia, Victoria

7.20 Neo-liberalism and changing regional policy in Australia

7.20 Neo-liberalism and changing regional policy in Australia	
Author/Editor	Matthew Tonts and Fiona Haslam-McKenzie
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>This paper examines the role of neoliberalism in shaping Australian federal regional development policy over the past three decades. As in other parts of the world, since the 1980s Australian federal governments have tended to favour the role of market forces, as opposed to direct intervention in regional development. By the 1990s, however, the negative social and economic impacts of neoliberal approaches, together with a widespread electoral backlash, contributed to an adjustment in the direction of regional development policy.</p> <p>The authors argue that this transition is reflective of a wider shift in neoliberal politics, whereby limited government intervention and institution building are increasingly seen as appropriate policy responses. While in part this is linked to the shortcomings of previous policy approaches, it is also apparent that political opportunism is an important element of this shift.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>This report is useful for providing a historical timeline of regional policy in Australia from the early 1970s to the early 2000s. It traces some of the seminal reports that have informed government thinking, and outlines the approaches and ideologies of various Commonwealth Governments.</p> <p>This report has 22 citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p>Both Matthew Tonts and Fiona Haslam-McKenzie were mentioned numerous times as being influential, by those consulted and survey respondents.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	While useful from a historical perspective this paper does not provide implementable policy recommendations.
Year	2005
Journal Name	International Planning Studies
Country, State/Region	Australia, Perth

7.21 Australia's Health Workforce

7.21 Australia's Health Workforce	
Author/Editor	Productivity Commission
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>The Commission's objectives are to develop a more sustainable and responsive health workforce, while maintaining a commitment to high quality and safe health outcomes. It has proposed a set of national workforce structures designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ support local innovations, and objectively evaluate, facilitate and drive those of national significance through an advisory health workforce improvement agency; ■ promote more responsive health education and training arrangements through: the creation of an independent advisory council; and a high-level taskforce to achieve greater transparency (and appropriate contestability) of funding for clinical training; ■ integrate the current profession-based accreditation of health education and training through an over-arching national accreditation board that could, initially at least, delegate functions to appropriate existing entities, based on their capacity to contribute to the objectives of the new accreditation regime; ■ provide for national registration standards for health professions and for the creation of a national registration board with supporting professional panels; ■ improve funding-related incentives for workforce change through: the transparent assessment by an independent committee of proposals to extend MBS coverage beyond the medical profession; the introduction of (discounted) MBS rebates for a wider range of delegated services; and addressing distortions in rebate relativities. <p>Those living in outer metropolitan, rural and remote areas and in Indigenous communities, and others with special needs, would benefit from these system-wide initiatives. Integration of these groups into mainstream health workforce frameworks will further improve outcomes, but targeted initiatives will also be required. There is a need for better evaluation of various approaches to service delivery in these areas and across the health system more generally.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	This report has been highly cited, with 282 and 92 citations on Google Scholar (for different versions). The Productivity Commission was further considered to be one of the most influential organisations in the field of regional research. This report is relevant from a service delivery/rural and remote health workforce perspective. Further it provides a range of advice and recommendations that are highly relevant for policy makers.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	
Year	2006
Country, State/Region	Australia, Canberra

7.22 Is there a case for regional policy?

7.22 Is there a case for regional policy?	
Author/Editor	John Tomaney
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Do regional inequalities matter and, if so, what should policy makers do about them? The future of regional policy is being debated across the globe. Almost all countries are experiencing growth in regional disparities, although the extent and forms these take can differ significantly. Generally, large cities have been growing at the expense of smaller cities and rural areas. In Australia this phenomenon is often expressed as the emergence of a “two-speed” or “patchwork” economy.</p> <p>For some analysts this is an inevitable and welcome development, because the concentration of economic activity in cities reflects the extent to which firms derive the benefits of agglomeration economies, which are the main source of productivity gains. In this perspective regional policies are inefficient, wasteful and counter-productive, serving only as a drag on the growth of the whole economy. The task of policy in this view is to invest in people not places, equipping them with means to be mobile across space and rationally to respond to market signals.</p> <p>Governments across Australia are all dealing with problems associated with spatially uneven development such as overheated housing markets, congestion of roads and public transport, and structural adjustment in carbon-intensive industries. A place-based approach does not provide all the answers to addressing these problems, but it does provide a new way of tailoring responses to them as they impact upon people and businesses differently across regional cities, rural regions, and the outer suburbs of the capital cities. It goes with the grain of evolving policy settings at federal and state level in Australia and may provide a new framework for better managing the nation’s “patchwork economy”.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	John Tomaney was identified by a number of those consulted and survey respondents as being influential in regional research. This paper is highly accessible and digestible, being of short length and relatively simple. It provides evidence and examples of places outside metropolitan cores that have achieved relatively high rates of growth.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	A complementary and more comprehensive guide for policy makers on the details associated with “place-based approaches” may be required.
Year	2011
Country, State/Region	Australia, Melbourne

7.23 Financial disadvantage in Australia - 1999

Author/Editor	Ann Harding, Agnieszka Szukalska, NATSEM Commissioned by The Smith Family
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	The Smith Family, in conjunction with the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), has released a milestone report on financial disadvantage in Australia. The key goal of the report is to establish an authoritative and up-to-date source of information about poverty risk and depth in Australia.
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	This report has 151 citations on Google Scholar. A number of those consulted and survey respondents noted that The Smith Family is influential in research on disadvantage, and that disadvantage tends to affect regions more than metropolitan capital cities.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	This report is useful for gaining an aggregated understanding of poverty in Australia, however it is not especially useful for policy makers who are focused on disadvantage in a regional context because it is not broken down into regional analysis.
Year	2000
Country, State/Region	Australia, Canberra

7.24 Q methodology and rural research

7.24 Q methodology and rural research	
Author/Editor	Josephine Previte, Barbara Pini, Fiona Haslam-McKenzie
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Traditionally, rural scholarship has been limited in its methodological approach. This has begun to change in recent years as rural researchers have embraced a range of different methodological tools.</p> <p>The aim of this article is to contribute to greater methodological pluralism in rural sociology by introducing readers to a method of research that is rarely engaged in the field, that is, Q methodology.</p> <p>The article describes the defining features of the approach as well as providing examples of its application to argue that it is a method that offers particular opportunities and synergies for rural social science research.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	This article has 36 citations on Google Scholar. Moreover, Fiona Haslam-McKenzie has been identified by a number of those consulted and online survey respondents as being influential in regional issues.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	<p>This article is aimed at researchers more than policy makers. It is fairly inaccessible for a policy maker.</p> <p>Complementary analysis, that uses the Q Methodology to investigate an issue of high significance in regional policy, may be more relevant to policy makers.</p>
Year	2007
Country, State/Region	United Kingdom, Oxford

7.25 Cities and the Creative Class

Author/Editor	Richard Florida
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Cities and regions have long captured the imagination of sociologists, economists and urbanists. From Alfred Marshall to Robert Park and Jane Jacobs, cities have been seen as cauldrons of diversity and difference and as fonts for creativity and innovation. Yet until recently, social scientists concerned with regional growth and development have focused mainly on the role of firms in cities, and particularly how these firms make location decisions and to what extent they concentrate together in agglomerations or clusters.</p> <p>This short article summarises recent advances in our thinking about cities and communities and does so particularly in light of themes advanced in Florida's book, <i>The Rise of the Creative Class</i>, which focuses on diversity and creativity as basic drivers of innovation and regional and national growth.</p> <p>This line of work further suggests the need for some conceptual refocusing and broadening to account for the location decisions of people as opposed to those of firms as sources of regional and national economic growth. In doing so, this article hopes to spur wider commentary and debate on the critical functions of cities and regions in the 21st Century creative capitalism.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	Richard Florida's work has been highly influential, as demonstrated by its 263 citations on Google Scholar. His analysis offers a number of theories and ideas of relevance to regional development policy makers, including that human capital is the central factor in regional growth; that economic <i>and</i> lifestyle considerations matter when people decide where to locate; and the three Ts of economic development – technology, talent and tolerance.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Florida's work is quite city centric, and while it offers useful ideas and solutions these would mainly only apply to larger regional cities (such as Cairns).
Year	2003
Country, State/Region	United States, Washington DC

7.26 The State of Rural Populations, a chapter in Sustainability and Change in Australia

7.26 The State of Rural Populations, a chapter in Sustainability and Change in Australia	
Author/Editor	Article author Graeme Hugo, book editors Chris Cocklin and Jacqui Dibden
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>There have been many myths that have been perpetuated about non-metropolitan Australian communities and their residents, but among the least tenable is stereotyping them as being less dynamic and less differentiated than the nation's metropolitan sector. This chapter seeks to dispel such myths by examining some of the contemporary and impending dynamics of the non-metropolitan sector through the window of shifts in its population.</p> <p>The most important resource in regional Australia is its people, but our knowledge of them is somewhat limited. It may come as a surprise that 35.2 per cent of Australians lived outside of cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants at the beginning of the 21st Century, and they are changing in substantial and important ways under the influence of economic, social, environmental and political shifts.</p> <p>This chapter summarises the trends in size, composition and spatial distribution of the non-metropolitan population. It argues that this population is becoming more diverse, and that this increased diversity offers considerable potential in efforts to work towards social, economic and environmental sustainability in rural Australia. At the same time, there has been a polarisation within non-metropolitan Australia that presents major challenges to policy makers.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>This chapter has 56 citations on Google Scholar. Graeme Hugo was identified by a number of stakeholders and survey respondents as being influential, particularly in relation to migration issues in regional Australia.</p> <p><i>The State of Rural Populations</i> is helpful for understanding demographic and migration factors in Regional Australia.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	While this chapter helps policy makers understand population shifts in regional Australia, it does not provide direct policy recommendations or implementable actions.
Year	2005
Country, State/Region	Australia, Sydney

7.27 Consolidation in Local Government: A Fresh Look (Volumes 1 and 2)

Author/Editor	Chris Aulich, Melissa Gibbs, Alex Gooding, Peter McKinlay, Stefanie Pillora and Graham Sansom, ACELG
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>This report examines the options available for local government to increase its capacity and provide improved services. A recurrent theme in local government reform, in Australia, New Zealand and overseas, has been the issue of municipal amalgamation and the various benefits which are assumed to flow from it. There have been many commissions and reports aimed at reforming local government in Australia and almost all have had as a major focus the question of optimum size and efficiency. This mirrors experiences in a number of overseas jurisdictions.</p> <p>The reports of these enquiries, together with the academic research in Australia, New Zealand and internationally, represent a huge body of literature, sometimes contradictory, often heavily focused on economic arguments to the exclusion of other issues – such as the importance of good governance and effective local democracy and representation – and rarely inclusive of any evaluation of the post-reform experience. It is little wonder that proposals for amalgamations or other forms of consolidation keep recurring, when there has not been a robust meta-analysis of the data to give governments more guidance in their policy making.</p> <p>This project sought, to a modest extent, to redress that imbalance. Its aim was to provide a fresh view of issues relating to municipal consolidation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ reviewing the available local and international literature; ■ conducting a series of ‘on ground’ case studies in areas which have recent experience with consolidation, in both Australia and New Zealand; and ■ interviewing key opinion makers who have recent experience in consolidation.
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>The Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) was identified by a number of survey respondents as having conducted influential research on regional issues. The report has eight citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p><i>Consolidation in Local Government</i> provides an accessible range of analysis and advice relating to local government amalgamation that should be of high relevance and use to policy makers.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	While a useful and detailed source of research and information, the length of these volumes makes them somewhat difficult for policy makers to easily access and digest.
Year	2011
Country, State/Region	Australia, Sydney

7.28 Cities and Communities that Work: Innovative Practices, Enabling Policies

7.28 Cities and Communities that Work: Innovative Practices, Enabling Policies	
Author/Editor	Neil Bradford
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>In <i>Cities and Communities that Work: Innovative Practices, Enabling Policies</i>, Neil Bradford, a research associate with the Canadian Policy Research Network's Family Network and Huron University College political scientist, reviews the literature, examines a number of case studies in Canada and abroad, and draws conclusions.</p> <p>Two decades of economic restructuring, the globalisation of competition, and rapid technological change have combined to create a world of great uncertainty and complexity. Not surprisingly, governments and citizens now place a premium on generating new knowledge to tackle unfamiliar problems. The need to replace inefficient, unsustainable practices with intelligent, responsible ones crosses organisational boundaries. Simply put, innovation – applying the best ideas in a timely fashion to emergent problems – is an urgent priority in the private, public and voluntary sectors.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>Canadian research was identified by a number of interviewees as having been influential in Australian regional development discussion. This particular report has 23 citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p><i>Cities and Communities that Work</i> is concise, accessible and relevant to policy makers. The listing of the 'seven building blocks' in successful community-based innovation is useful. Moreover, the report outlines three general categories of cases that are highly relevant to regional development policy makers: rural or remote communities; older industrial centres; and geographically dispersed regions seeking to build knowledge-intensive clusters. The report also outlines lessons and roles for various levels of government.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	It would be useful if this analysis was replicated for Australia, perhaps with cross-country comparisons against some of the Canadian, European or United States cases used in this report.
Year	2003
Country, State/Region	Canada, Ontario

7.29 Proposed Basin Plan – a revised draft, Proposed Basin Plan Consultation Report, Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan (and other accompanying documents)

7.29 Proposed Basin Plan – a revised draft, Proposed Basin Plan Consultation Report, Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan (and other accompanying documents)	
Author/Editor	Murray-Darling Basin Authority
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>There is broad support around Australia for placing the Murray-Darling Basin on a sustainable footing.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there remain opposing views across the Basin on how the system's water resources should be managed. Our responses to the views and concerns of the Basin stakeholders are summarised here.</p> <p>An adaptive plan.</p> <p>A robust starting point.</p> <p>Conservative groundwater limits.</p> <p>Best available scientific and socioeconomic analyses.</p> <p>The 2015 review.</p> <p>The market-based approach to shared reductions.</p> <p>Getting the most from environmental watering.</p> <p>Adapting to climate change.</p> <p>Localism is reaffirmed and strengthened.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	The Proposed Basin Plan, Consultation Report and other accompanying documents have been of high interest and influence in regional Australia, as they represent a significant Australian policy reform. The <i>Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan</i> has 84 citations on Google Scholar.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Given that the Basin Plan is itself a policy document, it would not be used to inform policy development, except from a historical perspective. However, much of the research commissioned as part of the Basin Plan process has been highly influential for regional policy makers and stakeholders.
Year	2012
Country, State/Region	Australia, Canberra

7.30 Understanding and promoting adoption of conservation practices by rural landholders

Author/Editor	D.J. Pannell, G.R. Marshall, N. Barr, A. Curtis, F. Vanclay and R. Wilkinson
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Research on the adoption of rural innovations is reviewed and interpreted through a cross-disciplinary lens to provide practical guidance for research, extension and policy relating to conservation practices.</p> <p>Adoption of innovations by landholders is presented as a dynamic learning process. Adoption depends on a range of personal, social, cultural and economic factors, as well as on characteristics of the innovation itself. Adoption occurs when the landholder perceives that the innovation in question will enhance the achievement of their personal goals.</p> <p>A range of goals is identifiable among landholders, including economic, social and environmental goals. Innovations are more likely to be adopted when they have a high 'relative advantage' (perceived superiority to the idea or practice that it supersedes) and when they are readily able to be trialled (easy to test and learn about before adoption). Non-adoption or low adoption of a number of conservation practices is readily explicable in terms of their failure to provide a relative advantage (particularly in economic terms) or a range of difficulties that landholders may have in trialling them.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	All of the authors of this report were identified by those consulted and surveyed as being influential authors. This report has a staggering 376 citations on Google Scholar. With a multi-disciplinary mix of authors, this paper looks at the issue of promoting the adoption of conservation practices from a range of perspectives. The sub-section clearly titled <i>Implications for policy and for regional bodies</i> also offers easily accessible advice for policy makers.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Complementary analysis building on this research in reference to particular conservation issues may be required.
Year	2006
Country, State/Region	Australia, Victoria

7.31 The role of Landcare group networks in rural Australia: exploring the contribution of social capital

7.31 The role of Landcare group networks in rural Australia: exploring the contribution of social capital	
Author/Editor	Jonathan Sobels, Allan Curtis, Stewart Lockie
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>In this paper, the authors report their qualitative research examining the origins, modus operandi and outcomes of two Landcare networks. The concept of social capital explains, at least in part, the apparent success of these networks.</p> <p>The two networks attracted substantial funding, created opportunities for participation and shared learning, carried out extensive on-ground works, improved communication structures, adopted more professional management practices and increased the knowledge of members.</p> <p>The key elements of social capital that were important in achieving these outcomes were trust, norms, expectations of reciprocity and linkages. Empowerment acted as a bridge that linked social capital with other factors contributing to network outcomes.</p> <p>The success of these Landcare networks suggests that top-down government stimulus can be a catalyst for bottom-up community development.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	This paper has 117 citations on Google Scholar. The finding of this project, that the success of the two Landcare networks investigated suggests that top-down government stimulus can be a catalyst for bottom-up community development, could be highly useful for policy makers.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Additional case studies, or other examples where network success increases social capital, would be useful in providing policy makers additional details on how to design top-down government stimuli aimed at triggering bottom-up community development.
Year	2001
Country, State/Region	Australia

7.32 Indigenous Employment in the Australian Minerals Industry

Author/Editor	Tony Tiplady and Mary Anne Barclay, Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSRM)
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Within the minerals sector, there is an emerging body of good practice in Indigenous employment and recruitment. The most progressive mining companies are taking a long-term view and, in addition to providing employment opportunities, are participating in initiatives to address the root causes of Indigenous socioeconomic disadvantage - poor education, poor health and poverty.</p> <p>A key business driver is the recognition by mining companies that robust relationships with Indigenous people based on recognition, respect, trust and honouring commitments are fundamental to maintaining the industry's 'social licence to operate' and ensuring long-term access to land and new resources.</p> <p>Other factors driving the increased focus by companies on Indigenous employment and addressing socioeconomic disadvantage include social and demographic changes in the regions of Australia where mining occurs, particularly the projected Indigenous population growth, and continuing skills shortages in remote and regional areas.</p> <p>Key objectives of the project were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ inform the minerals industry and policy makers about key trends and issues relating to Indigenous employment in the minerals industry; ■ develop a toolkit to assist mining companies achieve improved Indigenous employment outcomes; ■ develop a standard framework for evaluating and comparing the Indigenous employment practices of mining operations; and ■ facilitate the sharing of good practice within the industry. <p>The study involved 12 site visits, 113 face-to-face interviews, a practitioners' workshop, a review of published and unpublished research, and the collection and analysis of a comprehensive array of site data, including internal company reports and employment statistics.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	This report directly addresses the topical issue of Indigenous employment in the Australian minerals industry, both reporting on current practices and giving extensive practical suggestions for what works. This report has 23 citations on Google Scholar, and CSRM was mentioned a number of times during consultations, though it was not mentioned in the online survey.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Policy makers may not have time to read and digest an 80-page report. It is also more directly relevant for the mineral industry itself, though policy makers can use this to get specific ideas to support the mineral industry in hiring and retaining Indigenous workers.
Year	2007
Country, State/Region	Australia

7.33 Forestry, jobs and spending: Forest industry employment and expenditure in Tasmania, 2005-06

7.33 Forestry, jobs and spending: Forest industry employment and expenditure in Tasmania, 2005-06	
Author/Editor	Jacki Schirmer, CRC for Forestry
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Tasmania's forest industries are experiencing ongoing change. Factors such as changing technology, expansion of eucalypt plantations and changed access to native forests are changing the number and types of jobs created by the industry. There is often debate about the impacts of these changes on local regions: which Tasmanian regions depend most on the forest industry? How are changes to the industry affecting these regions?</p> <p>Robust data on the employment and spending generated by the forest industry in Tasmania can help inform these discussions. This report summarises results of the Forest Industry Survey, a survey of employment and expenditure by the plantation and native forest industries in Tasmania, undertaken by researchers working with the Cooperative Research Centre for Forestry.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>The CRC for Forestry, along with other CRCs, was identified as being influential by those consulted. This report has nine citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p>This report is useful for policy makers who are looking at government policies relating to forestry, employment, environmental matters and socioeconomic impacts in Tasmania.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	<p>This report is useful as background socioeconomic information. However it provides no policy guidance or options for policy makers. Hence, policy makers advising on particular policy actions may require complementary analysis, such as a socioeconomic impact assessment for a particular policy choice.</p>
Year	2008
Country, State/Region	Australia, Hobart

7.34 Social principles for agricultural extension to assist in the promotion of natural resource management

7.34 Social principles for agricultural extension to assist in the promotion of natural resource management	
Author/Editor	Frank Vanclay
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>An understanding of social issues, the social nature of farming and the social basis of adoption is needed if agricultural extension is to be effective in addressing natural resource management issues, and in promoting sustainability in its triple bottom line conceptualisation.</p> <p>Twenty-seven principles are presented here, with the key principles being: awareness of farming as a social activity; recognition of the social diversity of farmers and the social drivers in agriculture; and the socio-cultural basis of adoption.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>Frank Vanclay was identified by a number of stakeholders as being an influential author in relation to regional issues. This paper has 179 citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p>This paper provides a number of useful principles for policy makers involved in farming policy, particularly agricultural extension policy or activities. These principles are easy to digest and understand and if utilised by policy makers would contribute to better understanding and outcomes.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Complementary analysis building on this research in reference to particular conservation issues may be required.
Year	2004
Country, State/Region	Australia, Hobart

7.35 Decisions Made by Farmers that Relate to Climate Change

Author/Editor	Anthony Hogan, Helen L. Berry, Susan Peng Ng and Adam Bode
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>This RIRDC paper reports on a study of 4000 Australian farmers. It examines factors that are associated with decisions they may or may not make to adapt to risks posed by climate change.</p> <p>The report reveals that a majority of farmers are simply focusing on surviving in the short term in the face of myriad challenges, which go well beyond climate. It is evident that a large number of these farmers have identified the fact they are not financially viable in the face of current climate challenges. Such a conclusion raises many challenges for both farmers and policy makers.</p> <p>Perhaps resilience, once regarded as a key attribute of the Australian farmer, needs to be set aside. In some parts of Australia, it is being realised that certain types of farming are no longer viable in the face of climate change, irrespective of how resilient our farmers are.</p> <p>In facilitating groups of farmers moving on from existing practices, policy makers will need to develop trans-sectoral, community-focused solutions, which address the many complexities which will arise. As farmers come off exceptional circumstances assistance, drought, climate, natural resource management and community service policy makers will need to work closely together to address the myriad issues that will arise from this substantial process of social change. Many famers will have little if any equity left with which to rebuild their farms.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>This report has 10 citations on Google Scholar. The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) was identified by many survey respondents and people consulted as being influential in regional research.</p> <p>As noted by the report itself: "This report highlights the need for policy makers to understand the dynamics of farm decision making. Not all farmers will respond to climate change challenges in the same way, and policies that enable structural adjustment need the flexibility to cope with this."</p> <p>This is a highly relevant and useful paper for policy makers concerned with the adaptive capacity of farmers in relation to climate change.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	As noted in the paper, there may be value in conducting further analysis relating to the findings that there is a sense of moral responsibility in farmers' attitudes to sustainability and that health and social factors are key attributes of farmers seeking to move towards more sustainable farming practices.
Year	2011
Country, State/Region	Australia, Canberra

7.36 Workforce retention in rural and remote Australia: determining the factors that influence length of practice

Author/Editor	John S. Humphreys, Michael P. Jones, Judith A. Jones and Paul R. Mara
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Objectives: To ascertain which factors are most significant in a general practitioner's decision to stay in rural practice and whether these retention factors vary in importance according to the geographical location of the practice and GP characteristics.</p> <p>Design: National questionnaire survey. The method of paired comparisons was used to describe the relative importance of the retention items.</p> <p>Setting: Non-metropolitan Australia, September 2001.</p> <p>Participants: A stratified sample of all rural GPs practising during April-June 2001.</p> <p>Main outcome measures: A rank ordering of factors influencing how long GPs stay in rural practice, and an index of their relative perceived importance.</p> <p>Results: Professional considerations – overwhelmingly, on-call arrangements – are the most important factors determining GP retention in rural and remote areas. Rural doctors consistently ranked on-call arrangements, professional support and variety of rural practice as the top three issues, followed by local availability of services and geographical attractiveness. Proximity to a city or large regional centre was the least important factor. Retention factors varied according to geographical location and GPs' age, sex, family status, length of time in the practice and hospital duties.</p> <p>Conclusions: A broad, integrated rural retention strategy is required to address on-call arrangements, provide professional support and ensure adequate time off for continuing medical education and recreation.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>This article has 93 citations on Google Scholar. Workforce retention for General Practitioners (GPs) in rural and remote Australia is an important factor in health policy and service delivery.</p> <p>This article is short, simple to read and provides an effective summary in the abstract.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Complementary analysis on the initial recruitment of rural and remote GPs will be important for policy makers, given the paper's recommendation that recruiting more rural doctors is important to help provide a reasonable on-call ratio and ensure comprehensive after-hours care.
Year	2002
Country, State/Region	Australia

7.37 England and the ‘New Regionalism’

Author/Editor	John Tomaney and Neil Ward
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>It could be argued that there are currently two parallel developments in Europe: the increasing political importance of the regional level and the proliferation of regionally based initiatives in economic promotion and development (Danson <i>et al.</i>, 2000). Both have important consequences for the distribution of the institutionalised capacity which has been established to take and influence decisions with regard to the long-term future and development of a particular locality: in short, for the patterns of regional governance.</p> <p>It is widely recognised and stressed in the publications of the European Commission and of the UNIDO that institutions and governance are the critical factors in the determination of the potential and success of Europe’s regions. Within the UK, in particular, the establishment of the Scottish Parliament, Welsh and Northern Ireland Assemblies, and the creation of regional development agencies on the already crowded economic development landscape of England highlight the need to put these initiatives into some context and, given the primary role of the EU in shaping that landscape, to draw on experience from across Europe.</p> <p>Two aspects are central to many such discussions: the question of governance, i.e. how does the ongoing process of institution-building affect the ways in which the regions and localities are governed, including questions of democracy, participation, regional self-determination, public-private partnerships and accountability; and the consequences of new modes of governance and institutional change for regional development strategies and policies, particularly in the context of large-scale industrial restructuring and city-region and urban regeneration.</p> <p>Yet, in many cases, there has been an underdeveloped debate about the role of the institutions of the new ‘regions’ and about the processes of ‘regionalism’. This article by John Tomaney and Neil Ward presents a critical analysis of the underpinnings to such themes and contributes to the evolving literature.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	This paper has 101 citations on Google Scholar. John Tomaney was identified by a number of survey respondents and interviewees as being influential.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	This article is not particularly relevant or useful for Australian policy makers, except for its message that understanding a region’s development with awareness of distinctive national social formations and political economies, as well as ‘global’ trends, may be important/worth considering in the Australian context.
Year	2000
Country, State/Region	United Kingdom, London

7.38 From Pillar to Post? In search of the post-productivist countryside in Australia

7.38 From Pillar to Post? In search of the post-productivist countryside in Australia	
Author/Editor	Neil Argent
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>According to a growing number of commentators, the agricultural sectors and rural areas of advanced Western nations are experiencing a transition from productivism to post-productivism. In Britain and Western Europe, where this putative transition is most evident, the salient features of the shift include: the gradual removal of farm-level subsidies and related stimulatory policies; the introduction of a range of agri-environmental programs aimed at reducing agricultural commodity surpluses and halting farm-related environmental degradation; and the development of a more socially and culturally heterogeneous rural population as counter-urbanisation has brought a new stratum of residents into rural areas. This paper explores this notion in the Australian context.</p> <p>In analysing a wide range of data and policy documents, the paper argues that while there is some evidence of a productivist regime operating in Australia from 1945 to the early 1980s, and some more recent incipient trends consistent with a transition to a post-productivist countryside, there is much stronger evidence that the Australian farm sector and rural landscapes are being shaped by the complex interactions between the 'productivist' ideals held by farmers and key policy makers alike, and the growing environmental regulation of farming.</p> <p>It concludes that while the concept of 'post-productivism' is superficially appealing, it has little practical or conceptual application to Australian conditions. Indeed, the paper argues that 'post-productivism' is fundamentally misconceived, largely owing to its inherent binary narrative form and logic.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	This paper has 100 citations on Google Scholar. Neil Argent was identified by a number of survey respondents and interviewees as being influential.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	This article primarily looks at whether the changes in rural Australia can be understood through the lens of post-productivism (an academic concept largely irrelevant to policy makers) and concludes that it cannot. This article could help policy makers understand recent changes in rural Australia and compare them to other Western nations, but it has no direct policy applications.
Year	2002
Country, State/Region	Australia

7.39 Devolution and state planning systems in Australia

7.39 Devolution and state planning systems in Australia	
Author/Editor	Brendan Gleeson
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>This paper explores Australia's multi-level system of governance and considers its implications for urban and regional policy. The paper addresses four main questions about Australian urban governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In what ways can Australia's federal system of urban governance be contrasted with models in other developed countries? ■ How have shifts in recent decades within Australia's federal system affected urban governance? ■ What have been the main characteristics of change within Australia's state/territory planning systems in recent decades, and to what extent have these affected multi-level governance of space? ■ What lessons about the strengths and weaknesses of a federal system of urban governance can be drawn from the Australian experience?
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>This report has 14 citations on Google Scholar. Brendan Gleeson was identified by a number of survey respondents and interviewees as being an influential author in relation to regional issues (noting that much of Gleeson's research focuses on urban policy). For policy makers, this paper provides a useful analysis of Australia's multi-level system of governance.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	<p>While this paper is useful for understanding Australia's multi-level system of governance and some of the forces that shape interactions between levels of government (e.g. Constitutional powers, historical policies and events), a complementary and more focused and detailed analysis of the implications for regional policy would be beneficial for policy makers.</p>
Year	2001
Country, State/Region	Australia, Campbelltown

7.40 Building Competitive Regions: Strategies and Governance

7.40 Building Competitive Regions: Strategies and Governance	
Author/Editor	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>In recent years, the main focus of territorial policy has been on sustaining growth, not only on addressing relative decline, but on making regions more competitive. This has involved a shift away from redistribution and subsidies for lagging regions in favour of measures to increase the productivity of enterprises and encourage private investment, including an emphasis on endogenous assets.</p> <p>Putting this into practice is, however, complicated because different regions have different characteristics (urban, intermediate, industrial, rural, etc) which in turn imply specific and different policy and investment needs. As a first principle, therefore, policies to improve competitiveness need to be capable of adapting to these different needs.</p> <p>Regional competitiveness policies also pose significant governance challenges. On the one hand, they depend on effective integration of sectoral policies such as R&D and education. They also demand close co-operation across levels of government and between neighbouring regions, not to mention resource sharing. They also involve a high degree of co-ordination in planning and spatial development (zoning, network infrastructure development, etc). As important as the choice of strategy is the framework within which the strategy is implemented.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>The regional development and policy work of the OECD was frequently identified as being influential by those consulted for this project.</p> <p>Building competitiveness, especially in the context of the knowledge-based economy, is a useful aim for regional development.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	<p>This research should be highly relevant to policy; particularly given the mission of the OECD is to provide policies that will improve the economic and social wellbeing of people around the world. The document provides strategies for increasing the competitiveness of individual regions, as well as discussing the governance challenges that this will face. These challenges (particularly close coordination across different levels of government) may make policy implementation more difficult.</p> <p>Due to the lack of Australian case studies, this research may not be directly applicable to the Australian context. Complementary analysis may include application of this research to Australian contexts.</p>
Year	2005
Country, State/Region	France, Paris

7.41 Neoliberalism and the Institutions for Regional Development in Australia

7.41 Neoliberalism and the Institutions for Regional Development in Australia	
Author/Editor	Andrew Beer, Terry Clower, Graham Haughtow and Alaric Maude
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>This paper examines some effects of the pursuit of neoliberalism on regional development policy and practice in Australia, and in particular on the activities and effectiveness of regional development organisations.</p> <p>The paper interprets data from a survey of 505 regional development organisations across Australia through the framework of Jessop's contribution to state theory and his identification of four key trends in economic management under neoliberalism.</p> <p>Regional development policies are seen as a response of governments to electoral pressure from regions, but a response that is constrained by the dominance of neoliberal ideology. The objectives of regional development are predominantly economic, but are often limited to the role of facilitation and the provision of information.</p> <p>Some responsibility for regional development has been shifted downwards to regions, but the effectiveness of the organisations given this responsibility is reduced by the short-term and competitive nature of much of their funding, the lack of coordination between regional development actors at the local level, the proliferation of agencies and the competition between them.</p> <p>The paper concludes that regional development agencies in Australia are in many ways a <i>product</i> of neoliberalism, since they represent one way in which governments can be seen to be responding to regional pressure for assistance but they can do so without incurring significant costs. Yet regional development bodies are also <i>victims</i> of neoliberalist thinking, since it denies them the resources and the powers they need to be more successful in their work.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>This article has 50 citations on Google Scholar. Moreover, Andrew Beer was often seen by those consulted during interviews and as part of the online survey as being an influential author in relation to regional issues.</p> <p>This work is also influential in showing how neoliberalism has influenced regional development institutions in Australia.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	This is primarily an academic work observing how neoliberal thinking has affected regional development institutions in Australia – it contains criticism of existing practice but few direct policy implications, and so will be of less relevance to policy makers.
Year	2005
Journal Name	Geographical Research
Country, State/Region	Australia

7.42 Economic Implications of an Ageing Australia

7.42 Economic Implications of an Ageing Australia	
Author/Editor	Productivity Commission
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Australia faces a pronounced ageing of its population over the next 40 years. One-quarter of Australians will be aged 65 years or more by 2044-45, roughly double the present proportion. The proportion of the 'oldest old' will increase even more.</p> <p>People aged over 55 years have significantly lower labour force participation rates than younger people. As more people move into older age groups, overall participation rates are projected to drop from around 63.5 per cent in 2003-04 to 56.3 per cent by 2044-45.</p> <p>Assuming the average labour productivity performance of the past 30 years, per capita GDP growth will slump to 1.25 per cent per year by the mid 2020s, half its rate in 2003-04.</p> <p>While taxation revenue will largely track GDP growth, government expenditure is likely to rise more rapidly, placing budgets under considerable pressure.</p> <p>In the absence of policy responses, the aggregate fiscal gap will be around 6.4 percentage points of GDP by 2044-45, with an accumulated value over the 40 years of around \$2200 billion in 2002-03 prices.</p> <p>A range of policy measures will be needed to reduce the fiscal pressure from ageing and/or to finance the fiscal gap.</p> <p>Timely action would avoid a need for costly or inequitable 'big bang' interventions later. Population ageing can only be conceived as a crisis if we let it become one.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>The Productivity Commission was seen as highly influential with regards to regional policy in Australia, by both survey respondents and interviewees. That the work of the Productivity Commission is influential with policy makers is understandable, given that it is demand driven by nature (the government refers matters to the Commission for enquiry).</p> <p>The <i>Economic Implications of an Ageing Australia</i> report covers a topic of increasing policy relevance to all levels of government. This report has 304 citations on Google Scholar and received 74 submissions.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	<p>The findings and recommendations are designed to be specific enough to be implemented by governments and policy makers. However, Productivity Commission findings and recommendations are sometimes unpopular and politically difficult to implement. This report is also primarily descriptive rather than prescriptive, with the bulk of the report describing the effects of ageing projects and final policy implications being relatively general in nature.</p>
Year	2005
Country, State/Region	Australia, Melbourne

7.43 Report on Government Services

Report on Government Services	
Author/Editor	Productivity Commission
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>The <i>Report on Government Services</i> was commissioned in 1993 by Heads of Government (now COAG), to help inform improvements to the effectiveness and efficiency of government services.</p> <p>Improving government services is important to us all: everyone relies on these services at different stages, and the services are particularly important for disadvantaged members of our society. Improving government services is also important economically: governments spent over \$164 billion on the services covered by this report, equivalent to around 12.5 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product.</p> <p>This report covers services in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Early Childhood, Education and Training ■ Justice ■ Emergency Management ■ Health ■ Community Services ■ Housing and Homelessness <p>Particular attention is devoted to the delivery of mainstream services to Indigenous Australians.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>The Productivity Commission was seen as highly influential with regards to regional policy in Australia, by both survey respondents and interviewees. That the work of the Productivity Commission is influential with policy makers is understandable, given that it is demand driven by nature (the government refers matters to the Commission for enquiry). COAG reviewed this report series in 2009 and has since been implementing the recommendations of that review, which shows that COAG uses this report series and wants to increase its relevance and usefulness.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	<p>The findings and recommendations are designed to be specific enough to be implemented by governments and policy makers. However, Productivity Commission findings and recommendations are sometimes unpopular and politically difficult to implement.</p> <p>This report is also very long (over 1600 pages between the two volumes) and has no executive summary or overview, though as of 2012 it does include detailed summaries for each sector. Complementary analysis could include short policy pieces/briefings that distil the key information from each section into digestible pieces for policy makers.</p>
Year	2012 (Annual)
Country, State/Region	Australia, Victoria

7.44 Participation and governance in regional development: Global trends in an Australian context

7.44 Participation and governance in regional development: Global trends in an Australian context	
Author/Editor	Robyn Eversole, John Martin
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Providing a clearly written, cross-disciplinary overview of changing understandings of regional development in Australia, this volume focuses particularly on how the concept of participation is playing an increasingly important role in all aspects of regional development theory, policy and practice. It explores current trends toward increased citizen participation in development decision making and the establishment of governance structures to facilitate participation.</p> <p>The book brings the Australian experience into the larger debate, while seating Australian regional development experiences within their broader international context.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>Robyn Eversole and John Martin were both identified as being influential researchers on regional issues as part of the online survey and consultation process. Indeed, <i>Participation and governance in regional development</i> features contributions from numerous researchers who have been recognised as influential contributors to regional thinking. This book has 38 citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p><i>Participation and governance in regional development</i> provides a useful context and understanding of a number of areas in regional policy, such as approaching regional development, creating economic opportunities, managing natural resources and acknowledging diversity and exclusion.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	Complementary analysis that synthesises the messages in this book may make it more accessible to policy makers, who are unlikely to have time to read a 304-page book.
Year	2005
Country, State/Region	England, Hampshire

7.45 Changing Governance of Australian Regional Development: Systems and Effectiveness

7.45 Changing Governance of Australian Regional Development: Systems and Effectiveness	
Author/Editor	Tony Sorensen, Neil Marshall and Brian Dollery
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>Regional economic and social development is an important public issue in most countries, yet among the least successful. In Australia, some 40 years of trial and error regional strategy appear to have had limited success in securing long-range economic and social development leading to more diversified economies, population growth and converging regional wellbeing.</p> <p>This paper explores the nature of Australia's regional development problem and its causes as a prelude to summarising governments' changing capacity to influence and control events.</p> <p>Given this background, it sketches an emerging governance system, particularly in the state of New South Wales, designed to ameliorate regional adversity. Finally, it assesses the system's current and prospective functionality and impediments to system improvement.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>The authors of this report were identified by a number of those consulted and surveyed as being influential in regional research. <i>Changing Governance of Australian Regional Development</i> has 11 citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p>This paper is particularly useful in its use of tables and diagrams to demonstrate the factors and forces at play in relation to regional development. The outlining of Australia's regional economic and social development strategies is useful for understanding the changing roles and capacities of governments in Australia.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	This is largely an explanatory paper. Complementary analysis that takes the explanations provided in this article and turns them into more explicit policy options may be useful for policy makers.
Year	2007
Country, State/Region	Australia, Armidale

7.46 Australia's Changing Economic Geography: A Society Dividing

Author/Editor	Kevin O'Connor, Robert Stimson, Maurice Daly
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>This book's preface states: "Geography plays a crucial role in the operation of economic and social processes, a dimension ignored in much current Australian public policy development and program implementation. The fundamental rearrangement of spatial patterns of activity presents major challenge for the people, businesses, and politicians of Australia's cities and region. What we have is a society dividing on many dimensions, with some people and some places as winners while others are losing."</p> <p>This volume describes and analyses aspects of economic development in Australia and its effect on the nation's cities and regions. It tells the story of changes that have occurred in the economic geography of the nation in the context of globalisation and the processes of economic restructuring and population change that have been occurring over the decade 1986 to 1996.</p> <p>Some of the topics discussed include the arrival of new technologies, structural adjustment, deregulation, population shifts and the variations of households. The authors show how the nation's economic geography is being shaped by a range of processes that are leading to the uneven distribution of both people and jobs.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	This book has 123 citations on Google Scholar. It is relevant because it provides insight into the changing economic geography of Australia. Robert Stimson was also mentioned a number of times in both the online survey and the consultations.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	While directly relevant at the time, since it deals with the decade of 1986-1996 it is now more of historic interest to current policy makers rather than directly relevant. It also has only limited coverage of external issues which affect Australia. Complementary analysis would include updating its analysis for more recent years, which Robert Stimson did in his paper <i>Australia's Changing Economic Geography Revisited</i> (2011).
Year	2001
Country, State/Region	Australia

7.47 Supermarket Own Brands, Supply Chains and the Transformation of the Agri-food System

7.47 Supermarket Own Brands, Supply Chains and the Transformation of the Agri-food System	
Author/Editor	David Burch, Geoffrey Lawrence
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>The growth in consumption of supermarket 'own brand' food lines is having a significant impact on the organization and management of agri-food supply chains. In past decades, first-generation supermarket own brands were usually produced by established processing companies, which simply put a supermarket label on food lines already being marketed as branded products.</p> <p>Today, many own brand products are being produced for the supermarkets by newly emerging, specialist processing companies which manufacture nothing but supermarket lines. These specialist processing companies, which comprise an important element of the new supply chains established by globalising supermarkets, utilise just-in-time techniques and flexible production systems to supply a range of innovative food lines, from home-prepared meals to fresh, unprocessed, foods. Their emergence signifies a profound shift in the system of provisioning, which can be linked to wider changes accompanying globalisation.</p> <p>This paper explores the theoretical and policy implications of such changes, and argues that they foreshadow the emergence of a third food regime.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	Geoff Lawrence was mentioned numerous times in the online survey and also mentioned during consultation. This particular paper has 62 citations on Google Scholar.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	The paper is describing changes in industrial supply chains and market structure in the UK context, and does not draw policy implications. Complementary analysis could include applying this thinking to the Australian context and determining policy implications from that, especially given the dominance of the Australian grocery market by Coles and Woolworths.
Year	2005
Journal Name	International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food
Country, State/Region	Australia

7.48 The restructuring of Australia's rural communities, a chapter in Land of Discontent: The Dynamics of Change in Rural and Regional Australia

Author/Editor	Article author Matthew Tonts, book editors Bill Pritchard and Phil McManus
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>The purpose of this chapter is to examine the recent social and economic changes affecting Australia's rural communities.</p> <p>The chapter is divided into four main parts. The first section provides an overview of the nature of economic and political restructuring, and how these processes influence patterns of rural development. The second presents an overview of the demographic changes affecting Australia's rural communities, highlighting the socio-spatial dimensions of restructuring. The third section examines recent changes in public service provision and the concomitant impacts on rural communities. The final section reviews the prospects for local development initiatives as a means of overcoming decline, deprivation and socioeconomic marginalisation.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	<p>Matthew Tonts was identified as being an influential researcher in regional issues by a number of stakeholders and survey respondents. The book this chapter is in was mentioned several times in the online survey and has 123 citations on Google Scholar.</p> <p>This chapter outlines the changes facing Australia's rural communities and the background processes and that have led to this, as well as prospects for overcoming negative changes, which are topics of direct relevance to regional development policy.</p>
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	This chapter provides a number of general suggestions for local development initiatives and what is needed for their success. Complementary analysis could include several case studies where this has worked to give policy makers a better idea of how this looks in a specific local community.
Year	2000
Country, State/Region	Australia, Sydney

7.49 Policies for the future of regional Australia

7.49 Policies for the future of regional Australia	
Author/Editor	Paul Collits
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>...the rift between country and city is wider than at any time in the last 150 years. The rift is so wide that the return of rural and outback prosperity – if by chance it does return – will not quickly narrow the gap. For country grievances are not simply economic: the grievances are social and cultural. (Blainey, 2001)</p> <p>Recently I was talking to a journalist about country Australia and he asked if I was afraid of One Nation. I replied no, I was not afraid of One Nation, the political entity, but I was afraid of Australia becoming two nations. (Anderson, 1999)</p> <p>This article reviews perceptions of regional problems in Australia and opposing views of regional policy. It argues that regional conditions vary widely and that much of non-metropolitan Australia is not in decline, casting doubt on the existence of a divide and on arguments that the divide can, and should, be addressed by government.</p> <p>The article also argues that views on policy reflect perceptions of the nature and causes of regional problems, and of the capacity and desirability of government being involved in shaping regional outcomes. Current regional policy approaches, characterized by 'pragmatic incrementalism', are outlined and explained.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	Paul Collits was identified by numerous survey respondents as being an influential author in relation to regional issues. This paper is relevant because it considers the different policy perspectives on regional Australia and concludes that current policy objectives are just about right. It also has 17 citations on Google Scholar.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	While easily digestible, informative and useful for policy makers in understanding contrasting views and defending the current approach, this paper provides broad/general policy recommendations and so has limited specific application.
Year	2004
Journal Name	European Planning Studies
Country, State/Region	Australia

7.50 Home Truths: Property Ownership and Housing Wealth in Australia

7.50 Home Truths: Property Ownership and Housing Wealth in Australia	
Author/Editor	Blair A. Badcock, Andrew Beer
Research objective/ Abstract/Key messages	<p>"It's the Great Australian Dream: to own your own home. A staggering 85 per cent of Australians attempt it at some stage in their lives - the highest percentage in the world."</p> <p>"Government policies, the economy and local geographical factors affect the housing choices of different generations, from the 'safe and sound' postwar generation and the 'Baby Boomers' to 'Generation X'."</p> <p>"In a clear and challenging analysis, Home Truths shows how home ownership may enrich people or entrap them in debt. It examines the dream and spells out its consequences for individuals and for the wider society."</p> <p>This book discusses the way government policies, the economy and local geographical factors affect the housing choices of different generations. It shows how home ownership may entrap people in debt, or enrich them, and looks at the consequences for individuals and society in general. It includes references, bibliography and index.</p>
Reason for inclusion (this includes citations, mentions and views in consultations, relevance)	Andrew Beer was often seen by those consulted during interviews and as part of the online survey as being an influential author in relation to regional issues and housing issues. This book captures many of his and Badcock's insights into housing in Australia and addresses an important but under-researched topic – the Australian housing market. The book also has 70 citations in Google Scholar.
Are there any limitations to its use in policy and/or is complementary analysis required?	The book is written to be relevant and easily understandable for policy makers, and includes a number of specific policy recommendations to reverse ills the authors perceive are caused by the contemporary policy paradigm. Given its length (212 pages), short policy pieces/briefings distilling particular messages from this book in digestible pieces for policy makers would be useful complementary analysis.
Year	2000
Country, State/Region	Australia