Understanding and Defining Regional and Remote Areas

Sustainable Communities and Waste

National Environmental Science Program

IP2.02.02 Finding Fit-for-Purpose Technological Recycling Solutions for Regional and Remote Communities

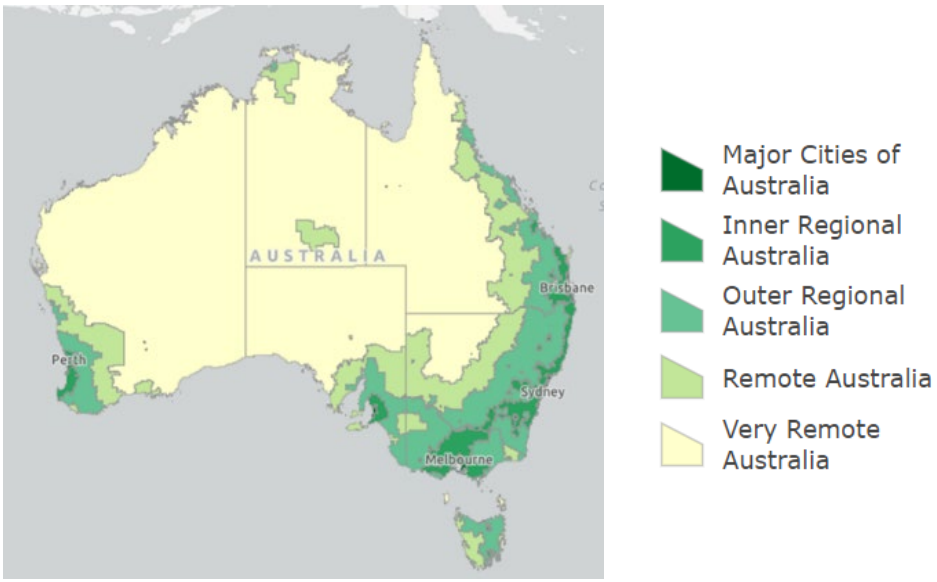
Version 1.3

Factsheet summarising selection of ASGS remoteness index for identification of technological solutions

Regional and Remote solutions is a key thematic area of the Sustainable Communities and Waste (SCaW) Hub, through which place-based, fit-for-purpose technologies that address local needs across Australia are explored. Specifically, research in Impact Priority 2 (IP2) is being conducted to find technological recycling solutions for regional and remote communities. This factsheet complements the full report:

Understanding and Defining Regional and Remote Areas: Criteria and Classifications for Australia

DOI: https://doi.org/10.26190/unsworks/31284



These communities face unique challenges when it comes to dealing with waste. Some common examples include:

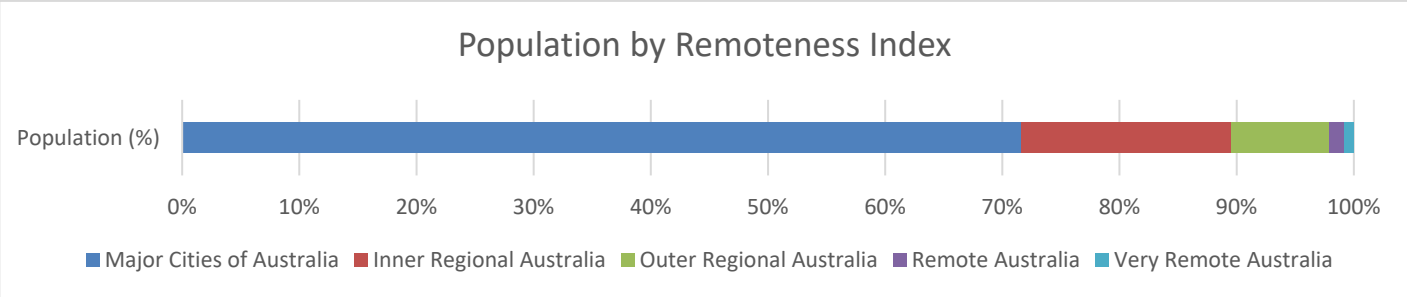
- Limited or no kerbside collection – of the 23% of the LGAs that do not offer any kerbside collection, the majority were in remote and regional communities
- Distance from recycling facilities – due to travel distance, road quality and weather events, transportation to Municipal Recycling Facilities (MRFs) represents a more significant cost factor leading to recoverable waste being sent to landfill
- Limited sorting technology - technical upgrades to facilities are less viable, requiring more labour-intensive sorting and difficulty separating co-mingled, contaminated waste

Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition 3

The ABS defined 5 classes of geographic remoteness characterised by a measure of relative geographic access to services, as derived from ARIA+. An average for the ARIA+ grid values was calculated for each Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) with the following corresponding ranges. Remoteness areas could change category over time for several reasons such as a population change or changing boundaries of urban centres and localities.

Remoteness Area Category	Remoteness Area Name	Avg. ARIA+ Value Range
0 or ASGS-RA1	Major Cities of Australia	$0 < x \leq 0.2$
1 or ASGS-RA2	Inner Regional Australia	$0.2 < x \leq 2.4$
2 or ASGS-RA3	Outer Regional Australia	$2.4 < x \leq 5.92$
3 or ASGS-RA4	Remote Australia	$5.92 < x \leq 10.53$
4 or ASGS-RA5	Very Remote Australia	$x > 10.53$

Many organisations outside of the ABS have adopted this classification for defining regional, rural and remote locations. For example, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare used the ASGS for comparing health outcomes based on remoteness, the Department of Health and Aged care determines eligibility for some health programs using the ASGS alongside the Modified Monash Model (MMM) and the Department of Education incorporated the index into analysis of Higher Education Student Statistics.



Index	Geographic factors	Access to Services	Socio-Economic factors	Utilisation in Australia	Latest Release
ARIA+	✓	✓	×	Policy and health in rural and remote areas	2021
ASGS	✓	✓	×	Statistical Analysis and Spatial Planning	2021
MMM	✓	✓	×	Workforce policies, funding, and health programs	2019
RRMA	✓	✓	✓	Largely superseded	2004
SEIFA	×	×	✓	Socio-economic Research	2021
RPI	✓	×	✓	Rural Health Policy	2021

To have consistency throughout research conducted under IP2, the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) will be used to classify the remoteness of geographic areas. Developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the ASGS is widely recognised and adopted throughout Australia. It is also stable over time with an accurate statistical basis that uses meaningful regions for boundaries. Furthermore, as a relatively new index, it presents up-to-date data with several webtools to provide the ASGS index for specific regions, making it useful when collating data from all over the country.

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