

RESEARCH MATTERS
News from the Department of Infrastructure's
Research and Analysis Branch

THE REGIONAL ATLAS WINS PLANNING INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA AWARD

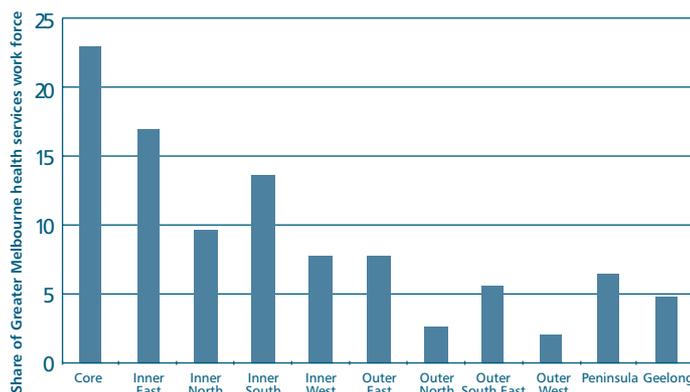
Regional Matters: An Atlas of Regional Victoria has received a Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Award for Planning Excellence in the category of Rural/Regional Planning Achievement. The PIA panel considered the Regional Atlas to be a major contribution to planning at the broad regional level and was particularly impressed with the whole-of-government approach to the project. For further information on the Regional Atlas and an in-depth look at one of the issues covered, see p. 2 of Research Matters.

MONITORING GREATER MELBOURNE

Kevin O'Connor's Monitoring Greater Melbourne report has now been published and released by the Department of Infrastructure (DOI).

Last year, DOI invited Dr. Kevin O'Connor of Melbourne University to revive the respected Monitoring Melbourne series of reports that ceased publication in 1998. With technical and financial support from DOI, and additional sponsorship from the City of Melbourne and the Urban and Regional Land Corporation, Dr O'Connor's report uses maps and charts to present and analyse population and economic indicators for an expanded Greater Melbourne which includes Geelong. The report also contains two articles by Dr O'Connor on 'The links between jobs and housing in the Greater Melbourne Region' and 'Recent change in the Greater Melbourne's labour market'.

The report includes comparisons between Victoria and other east-coast States, between Melbourne and other capitals and between 11 subregions within Greater Melbourne.



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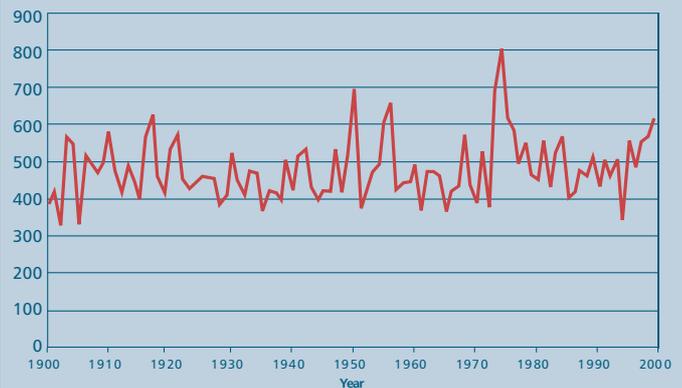
REGIONAL MATTERS LAUNCHED

Regional Matters: An Atlas of Regional Victoria was launched on 23 August by the Minister for Regional Development, John Brumby. The publication presents issues of interest and importance to regional Victoria. It covers a wide range of topics including population, jobs and industry, housing, road and rail transport, health services and education.

Regional Matters issue of interest: constraints on water use

The distribution and use of water resources is an issue of particular significance at present with many regions of Victoria facing water restrictions, including Melbourne for the first time in 20 years. The availability of water resources in Victoria is affected by Australia's variable climate. In terms of water resources, Victoria is a favoured part of Australia, but by world standards even Victoria's resources are low. Stream flows vary widely between seasons and from year to year. Records from major rivers around Victoria show extreme variability in annual flow. Smaller rivers show even greater fluctuations. Extreme environmental events such as drought are, therefore, a normal part of Victoria's climate.

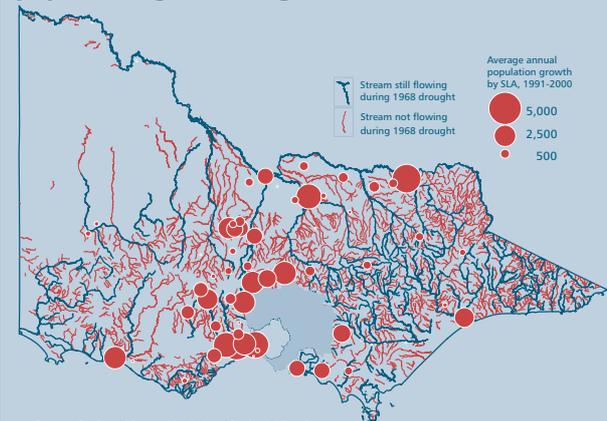
Annual rainfall (mm), Australia, 1900 to 1999



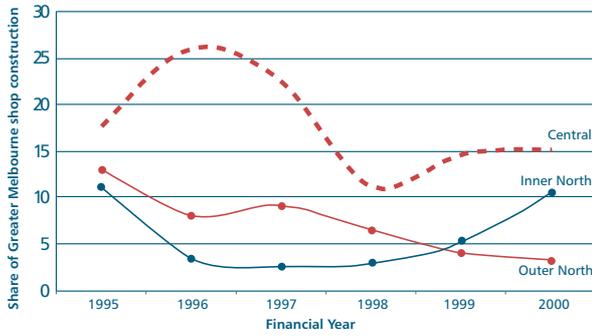
Source: *Regional Matters: An Atlas of Regional Victoria*

If we look at one such drought (in this case 1968) the dramatic impacts on stream flow can be seen. This map provides a different perspective from average stream flow and also presents a point of critical shortfall of supply which is as important to those considering water-supply issues in the same way that extreme rainfall events may be important to those considering flood protection. At the height of the 1968 drought, stream flow was maintained in the south-east of

Streamflow during severe drought (1968), and areas of population growth, regional Victoria 1991 to 2000



Source - *Regional Matters: An Atlas of Regional Victoria*



Source: *Monitoring Greater Melbourne*

It is available from Information Victoria (356 Collins Street, Melbourne, tel. 1300 366 356), priced at only \$22 (incl. GST). For more information about the publication, visit <http://www.doi.vic.gov.au/research>

For more information, contact Gordon Edgar, tel. 03 9898 6636, email: gordon.edgar@doi.vic.gov.au

DOI MEASURES UP WITH UNITED NATIONS HABITAT AND METROPOLIS

DOI is leading an exciting project on behalf of the international Metropolis organisation in partnership with United Nations Habitat. Originally proposed by the World Bank, the project will be developing performance measurement systems in third-world cities.

Background

Despite substantial progress over the past decade in raising the level of human development in most parts of the world, more than 60 countries have lower incomes per head than they did before 1990 (UNDP, *Human Development Report 2002*). In addition, the world faces serious environmental problems including those related to water, ecosystems and atmospheric emissions.

The goal of sustainable development is seen by most governments and non-government organisations, and increasingly by businesses, as the best way of tackling interlinked economic, social, environmental and governance problems in an integrated manner (see, for example, WRI, UNEP and World Business Council for Sustainable Development, *Tomorrow's Markets – Global Trends and their Implications for Business, 2002*). City governments have a key part to play in achieving sustainable development, given the fast pace of urbanisation in the developing world and the roles of cities as key nodes in the global economic network, as major consumers of environmental capital and as locations of innovation and creativity. The concentration of people in cities also makes the delivery of programs and projects potentially more efficient.

However, city governments vary widely in their ability to effectively tackle problems. Progress will be accelerated if the effectiveness of inputs and processes in delivering outputs and outcomes can be measured and evaluated to assess whether best value has been obtained. Benchmarking against best practice would also be possible.

Performance measurement systems can help achieve sustainable development and best value in a number of ways by:

- increasing the effectiveness of strategic plans
- increasing the communities' understanding of the links between environmental, social, economic and governance outputs
- obtaining better outcomes from projects and service provision

the State where streams were still able to be fed from alpine sources. Towards the north-west, however, the topographic and hydrographic characteristics of the region result in stream flow vulnerability during severe drought, and consequently water-supply vulnerability.

Rather than leaving the map as a picture of water resources, the linkage through to water supply is followed by considering population growth. Overlaying a map of population growth shows that some of the strongest regional growth is in centres which are potentially vulnerable to such an event. During the 1990s, the locations in regional Victoria which experienced greatest growth were in the ring of regional centres from Geelong through Ballarat and Bendigo in the west and through to Shepparton and Wodonga in the north. One thing that strikes us immediately is that some of these –Bendigo and Ballarat, for example – are growing rapidly.

This growth trend is something that is seen as positive and it is encouraged through government policy initiatives. Nevertheless, there is a potential vulnerability which may not be evident this year or next year but which would certainly be evident in a severe drought. In one sense, this is not a new issue. The water boards of Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong have voiced concern over issues of water supply and water restrictions for many years. However, there is a tendency when such issues are raised to see them in terms of short-term problems (inconvenience or cost of water restrictions) or in terms of who is to blame (usually a neighbouring catchment or Melbourne). Communicating the longer term dynamic and the cross-catchment implications is a challenge, but one which is achieved in the map presented above.

Regional Matters: An Atlas of Regional Victoria is available in hard copy form from Information Victoria, tel. 1300 366 356 or online at:

www.infomation.vic.gov.au/resources.

For further information, contact Fiona McKenzie on tel. 03 9655 8814, email: fiona.mckenzie@doi.vic.gov.au



REGIONAL ATLAS COMPETITION RESULTS

Congratulations to Frank Dawson, Simon Westford and Fiona Webster! By simply emailing or posting the answer to the following question they each won a copy of *Regional Matters: An Atlas of Regional Victoria*.

Question. What was the average annual population growth rate in regional Victoria between 1996 and 2001?

Answer. 0.9 per cent

(Don't forget to enter the Monitoring Melbourne Competition for your next chance to win).

- potential for more public accountability and transparency
- through the provision of information, generating community pressure for improvements and reform.

The Metropolitan Performance Measurement Project

The objective of the Metropolitan Performance Measurement Project (MPMP) is to encourage the development of performance measurement systems in participating Metropolis member cities.

Metropolis and the UN Habitat Local Indicators Facility (LIF) are currently undertaking a survey to diagnose the extent and nature of demand for performance measurement assistance among Metropolis member cities. MPMP will use the findings of the LIF to develop informational tools and resources to assist city managers build performance measurement systems and capabilities. These tools and resources will be tailored to reflect the particular needs and capabilities of participating cities. Ownership and ongoing commitment by the participating city governments will be maximised.

Metropolis has a proven track record in information exchange and knowledge and skills transfer through its Technical Assistance Scheme and Training Institute. UN Habitat will assist by leveraging resources.

A Melbourne-based Technical Working Group has formed and has developed criteria to help identify participating cities. The project is timed to finish in 2005.

For further information, contact Gordon Edgar on tel. 03 9655 8573, email gordon.edgar@doi.vic.gov.au

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BRANCH – WEB SITE NEWS

The research section of the DOI site has been reorganised as mentioned in previous editions. For consistency purposes, users will be able to navigate via sections topics such as:

- population
- housing
- land development
- employment and economic activity
- transport
- freight and logistics
- metropolitan and regional research.

Each topic page has subsections with subjects such as the latest news, statistics, projects, publications and links. All glossaries have been consolidated into one area, similar to the useful links sections.

Any comments or suggestions can be emailed to christina.inbakaran@doi.vic.gov.

Research Matters distribution

Do we have your details correct? Are you still happy to receive *Research Matters*?

If your contact details have changed, or you would like to stop receiving *Research Matters*, or you know someone who would like to start receiving it, please let us know so we can update our mailing list.

We are contactable by email research.analysis@doi.vic.gov.au or you can join directly from our webpage by clicking on 'research contacts' when you visit www.doi.vic.gov.au/research.

KNOW YOUR AREA

The 'Know Your Area' section on the DOI web site has been updated. Data is available at various geographies including State regions, LGAs (local government areas), SLAs (statistical local areas), suburbs, towns and DOI regions. The datasets include:

- DOI population projections
- DOI household projections
- residential lots in subdivision plans submitted to councils
- water-supply conditions accepted for residential lots
- certification of residential lots
- residential lots released
- local government expenditure and revenue
- other useful links.

More datasets will be added over time.

Additional functionalities for users include the ability to:

1. copy data tables into Microsoft Excel for further manipulation
2. compare datasets for different geographies , and
3. navigate to smaller areas from the local government page.

We have also added a short form to capture information on our users. We encourage users to fill it in, look at the new site and give us your feedback. For further information, please contact Christina Inbakaran on tel. 03 9655 6054, email: christina.inbakaran@doi.vic.gov.au.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS ONLINE

Local Government Research Network (LGRN) members may be aware that *Local Connections* was not published this year. In 2003, *Local Connections* will be an interactive online publication. To achieve this, we are in the process of pilot testing our new procedures. In 2002, we collected a number of articles for a Housing edition. We regret that we have been unable to publish these in hard copy. However, the articles we collected will appear online as part of the pilot testing phase. Users are encouraged to submit articles online. The topics areas that we are in the process of testing are Housing and Transport. Also, if any LGRN members have left your organisation (working group members and general members) or if others want to join, please email us to update our records. Please email LGRN network coordinators christina.inbakaran@doi.vic.gov.au or christine.kilmartin@doi.vic.gov.au for progress information or comments.

MONITORING GREATER MELBOURNE COMPETITION

Monitoring Greater Melbourne, the follow-on publication to the successful annual series of Monitoring Melbourne publications has been released. We are giving readers the chance to win one of six copies of the *Monitoring Greater Melbourne* publication valued at \$22 (incl. GST).

All you need to do is answer the following question correctly.

Question. The Monitoring Greater Melbourne publication includes comparisons between how many subregions within Greater Melbourne?

Hint. The answer is somewhere in this issue of Research Matters.

Please mail your answer with your mailing address to
Monitoring Melbourne Competition
Research and Analysis Branch
Department of Infrastructure
GPO Box 2797Y, Melbourne 3001
or email: Research.Analysis@doi.vic.gov.au

Entries close 5.00 pm, Friday ,17 January 2002. Three winners will be drawn at random from all correct entries received by the closing date. Only one entry per person. Current employees of DOI are ineligible. The editor's decision is final.

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VICTORIAN POPULATION BULLETIN – SPECIAL ISSUE

The *Victorian Population Bulletin* has now been released. If you have not yet received your free copy of this Special Edition release, please email us research.analysis@doi.vic.gov.au