

Growing Our Own

Using place-based approaches to
development in RRR Australia

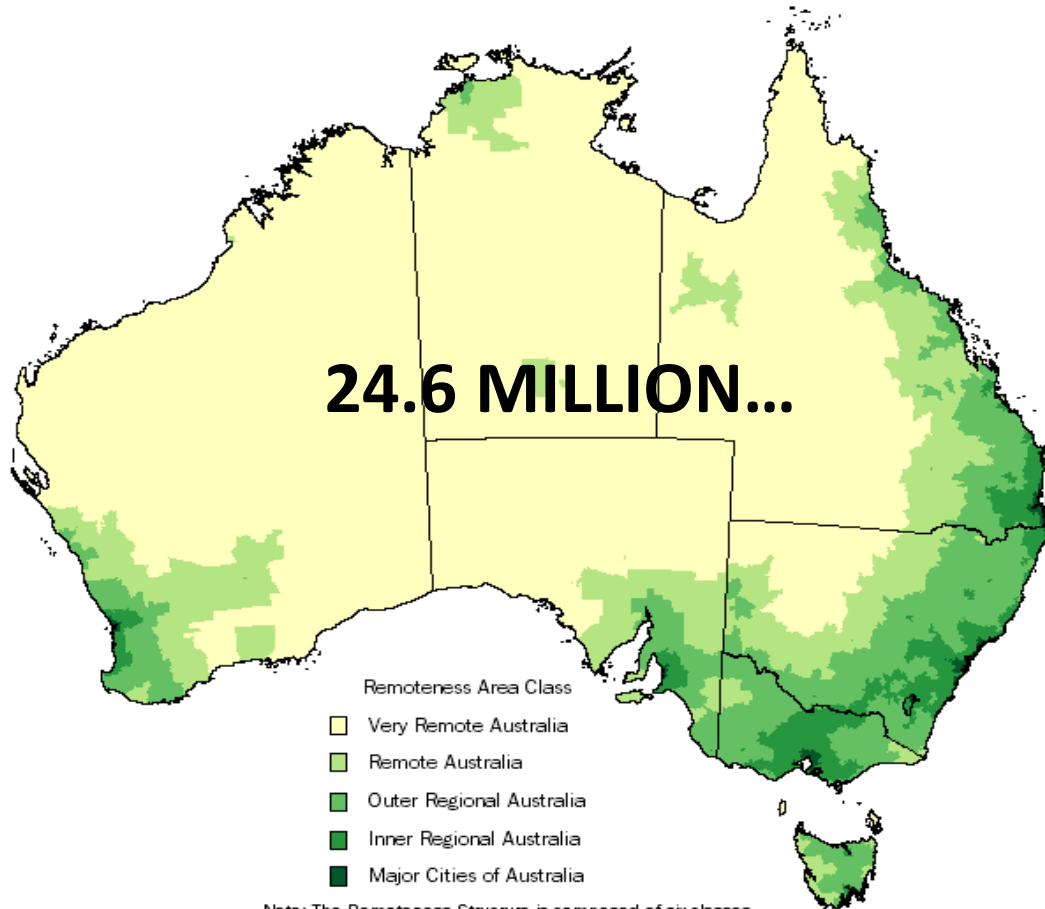
SEGRA 2019



Context: Size matters



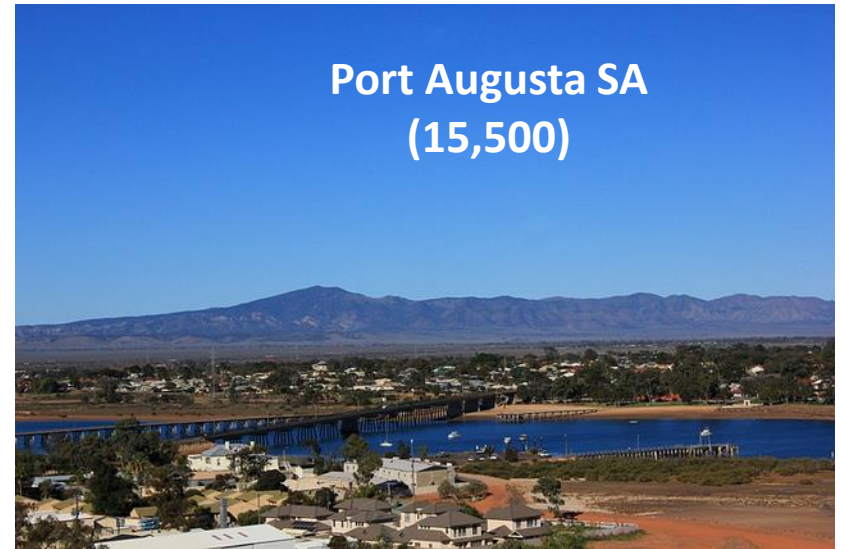
Regional Rural and Remote Australia



Note: The Remoteness Structure is composed of six classes. The migratory class is not mapped.

Aust total popn	Approx. 24.6m
Major cities	16.9m
Inner reg.	4.9m
Outer reg.	2.2m
Remote	369,000
V. Remote	196,000

One-size-fits-all doesn't



Place-based Development

- Every place is different – if you've seen one country town, you've seen one country town
- Fit for purpose
- Mobilising local assets (assumes there are some)
- Requires a critical mass across the capitals
- Often requires a level of 'growing your own' before you reach the starting point



Growing our own – Ceduna

The challenge:

Building a local workforce to support NDIS psycho-social service delivery in Ceduna and surrounds

Barriers:

Remoteness

Thin market

Lack of human capital and no capacity to provide it



Growing our own – Ceduna

The Solution:

- We grew our own!
- Worked with RTO for auspicing
- Used our own qualified trainers
- Provided block training in group setting
- Supported our staff



But how is that regional development?

- Staff are embedded
- They live and work in the community
- We see it as an investment in sustainability of that community
- It constitutes 'hidden' regional development (but I don't want to steal Catherine's thunder)
- It can be better supported (through economies of scope, not scale)



Some New Approaches for Funders?

- Understand the real challenges of RRR service delivery and the complexities of market failure, and respond differently?
- Identify the point (related to scale) at which 'competitive tendering' for public funding creates greater problems from fragmentation than benefits from 'bang for buck'?
- Institutionalise different ways of administering funding in RRR areas through appropriate procurement guidelines?
 - Spend money on institutional infrastructure as well as hard infrastructure
 - Longevity funding models, e.g. 3 + 3 + 3?
- Recognise 'good' agencies in regions that can apply (and are already) economies of scope?
- Identify and recognise the value that local service provision brings?
- Reward innovative service approaches?

