

Title: Improved Planning for Regional Economies and Communities

Gemma Van Halderen*
First Assistant Statistician
Population, Labour and Social Statistics Group, Australian Bureau of Statistics
g.vanhalderen@abs.gov.au

Abstract

Statisticians are increasingly being asked to link their statistical information to a location to inform on regional planning; provide targeted service delivery; support community level decision making and integrate socio-economic data within geospatial analysis. Many statistical organisations are responding to this demand, but are they providing this geospatially enabled information in a way that maximises the benefit for all their stakeholders? The issue is not one of making statistics available within a geospatial context, but one of providing a consistent, repeatable and extensible approach to meet growing demand for geospatially enabled statistics.

This paper will examine the capability that the Australian Bureau of Statistics has developed to provide a consistent approach to spatially enabling its statistical information to better inform its stakeholder community. The paper will describe a simple but effective framework that will assist any organisation integrate their own and other statistical information. Simplifying the integration of statistics from multiple organisations will provide richer, more comprehensive information to better inform decision makers.

Key words: geospatial, data integration, spatial-enablement