



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications**

Bureau of Communications, Arts and Regional Research

Regional Data Hub: supporting delivery in our regions

Data plays a critical role in helping governments and community decision-makers to make informed decisions that improve the welfare of their communities.

The Regional Data Hub will be a new central source of data for Australia's regions. It will help improve outcomes for Australia's regions by strengthening the evidence base on which future decisions are made to provide good outcomes for communities.

Why do we need the Regional Data Hub?

High quality data and research are critical in making strong evidence-based decisions. The Regional Data Hub will provide an enduring source of information that helps community users, all tiers of government and others to serve the interests of their communities. The Regional Data Hub will address the need for coordinated, comprehensive and accessible data on issues affecting Australia's regions, like ensuring strong economic growth and enhancing community welfare.

The Australian Government committed \$13.7 million to the Better Data Use to Support Delivery for Regional Australians program over 4 years from 2020-21, which will provide government and community decision-makers with easier access to relevant data. The Regional Data Hub is an important part of this program.

What data will be available?

The design and content of the Regional Data Hub will put user needs first. The types of data collated will be based on user consultation. The Regional Data Hub proposes to focus on economic, social and demographic themes. It will:

- enable easier access to data that exists
- improve data that is available, and
- address data gaps.

The Regional Data Hub will be publicly accessible and searchable by location.

Who will use the Regional Data Hub?

The Regional Data Hub is being designed for the needs of government and community-decision makers across Australia, including:

- Commonwealth, state and territory and local governments
- The Regional Development Australia network
- Industry peak bodies
- Community and non-government organisations
- Researchers and evaluators
- The private sector (consultants, peak bodies).

Regional Data Hub in practice

In 2020-21, the Australian Government has funded more than 350 packages and measures which are aimed at strengthening Australia's regions. These initiatives are focused on creating jobs, driving economic growth and building stronger regional communities. The Regional Data Hub will help underpin policy and program design for current and future initiatives such as these.

What are the next steps?

We are undertaking extensive consultations with users to inform the development of the Regional Data Hub. We will provide updates on our website about the development and implementation of the Regional Data Hub, which is expected to launch in late 2021.

How can I have my say?

If you use data or have data needs that will help benefit your community, we want to hear from you.

Find out more:

- Email: regionaldatahub@infrastructure.gov.au

About us

We are the Bureau of Communications, Arts and Regional Research. We provide data and analysis on communications, arts and regional issues.