

The Challenges (and Opportunities) Facing Our Regions

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Three Aspects

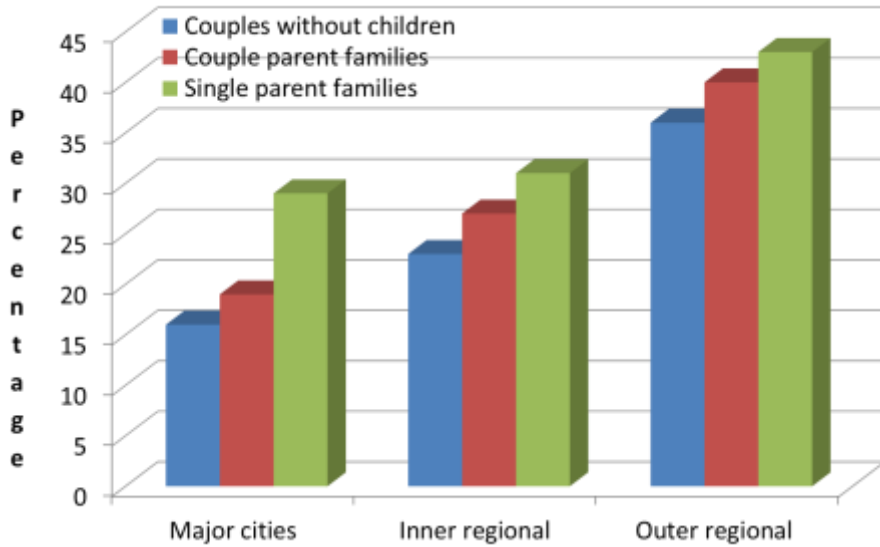
- Challenges and opportunities
- Regional communities managing change
- Practical approaches to planning

Ongoing Challenges



- Infrastructure and services
- Attracting and retaining people
- Industry competitiveness and restructuring
- Ageing and health
- Viability of agriculture, small business
- Digital access



Access to Services



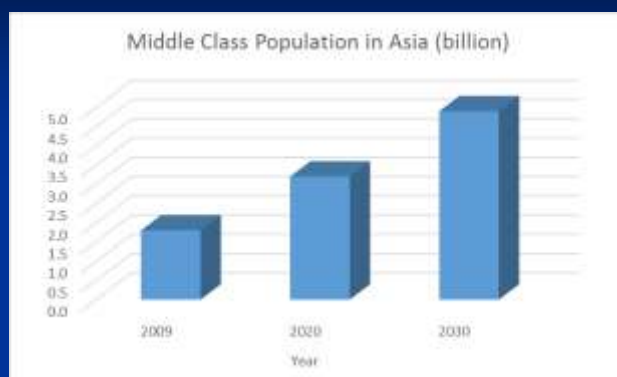
Ageing Population

- Over 65 years age group growing by 5.1% p.a.
- By 2031, the number of aged Australians will have doubled, 1 in 5 people over 65 years
- Median age from 35.0 years to 47.3 years
- 1 %  in population over 55
- 0.4 %  in regional productivity

“New” Challenges and Opportunities

- Growing population and middle class in Asia
- Climate change
- Digital economy
- Global market – “clean” produce
- Tourism
- Self-employment
- Cooperative business structures
- Preferences

Middle Class



By 2030, Asia will represent:

- 66% of the global middle-class
- 59% of middle-class consumption (Kharas, 2010)





Managing Change - Resilience

- Anticipate and accept change
- Supporting “Drivers”
- Diverse economic strategies
- Smart advocacy
- Multi- community collaboration
- Continuity of resourcing
- Deliberation
- Cultivate allies
- Celebrate success







Strategies

- Infrastructure
- Bring money in
- New local business starts
- Efficiency of existing firms

Strategies Cont'd

- Reduce leakage
- Feed off economic “anchors”
- Community capacity for economic development











Planning

- Planning – not just a plan
- Existing action and networks
- Owned by community, not Council
- Leaders and communities understanding
- Feedback and Follow Through
- “Pothole list” plus strategies

Misconceptions

- “We have to do it”
- The community plan is about Council
- We will be committed to a wish list we can't fund
- It gives open slather to Council critics
- We have a community plan when we have a document

Keys to Good Planning

- Genuine engagement and ownership
- Drivers
- Council as a “steward”
- Whole of Council involvement
- Engagement with other stakeholders
esp state government







Keys to Good Planning

- Enough time and resources
- Add value to existing action
- Partnerships and coordination
- Sectors + geographic communities
- Small visible successes
- Transparency – action plans
- Building capacity