Meeting of the Group of Experts on Business Registers

Session III

Geospatially Enabling the ABS Business Register

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ABS Geospatial Strategy

• Statistical Spatial Framework
  – Provide for a consistent and common approach to geospatially enabling statistical and administrative data
Benefits

- Improve availability of regional business counts
- Improve further analysis via data linking, modelling
- Support migration of location based collections
- Support gross regional product estimates
- Enable coherence with population statistics
- Reduce provider load
- Use in the scoping of survey frames
Current Initiatives

• Location statistical unit has been added to the ABS Economic Units Model
  – a single, unbroken physical area, occupied by an organisation, at which or from which, the organisation is engaged in productive activity on a relatively permanent basis, or at which the organisation is undertaking capital expenditure with the intention of commencing productive activity on a relatively permanent basis at some time in the future”
Economic Units Model
Current Initiatives

- Australian Business Register
  - All new business registrations collect information on all locations (including industry)
  - Program to collect location data from the top multi-location businesses
Current Initiatives

• Systems functionality to hold location data at the Enterprise Group and ABN levels added
  – Still need to add location
• Main business address data geocoded using the ABS address coder
• Australian Business Register (ABR) Data loaded to the ABS input data warehouse
Challenges

• Availability of location data
• Maintenance
• Data quality
• Conceptual challenges
  – Locations not corresponding to an address
  – Services where it does not make sense to describe geographically
Future Work Program

• Geospatial maintenance strategy
  – Identify additional sources
• Continue to work with ABR on locations coverage
• Developing conceptual link with the ABS Address Register
• Develop standard treatments for special cases
• Data visualisation tool