

LOCALLY-LED MIGRATION STRATEGIES

Regional Australia Institute
WALGA Multicultural Communities Forum
21 October 2019



**REGIONAL
AUSTRALIA
INSTITUTE**



OUTLINE

- Who is the RAI?
- Why are migration strategies needed?
- Steps for Settlement Success

ABOUT THE REGIONAL AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE



- Australia's only independent think-tank dedicated to helping regions and their people thrive
- We research for policy influence, broker relationships, convene conversations and, are working to change the narrative about regional Australia



Regional Australia = All of Australia outside the capital cities.



9 million people



31 great small cities



1,550 small towns



1/3 of all jobs and
national economic
output

- RAI considers that:
 - Increased migration to regional Australia is critical for the viability of many of regional Australia's towns, businesses and major industries.

REGIONAL JOB VACANCIES

There were 46,485 job vacancies in regional Australia in August 2019

Up from 44,254 advertised in August 2017

% CHANGE

August 2017
to August 2019:

ALL OF
AUS



↓ 3.4%

MAINLAND
CAPITALS



↓ 6.0%

REST OF
AUS



↑ 4.8%

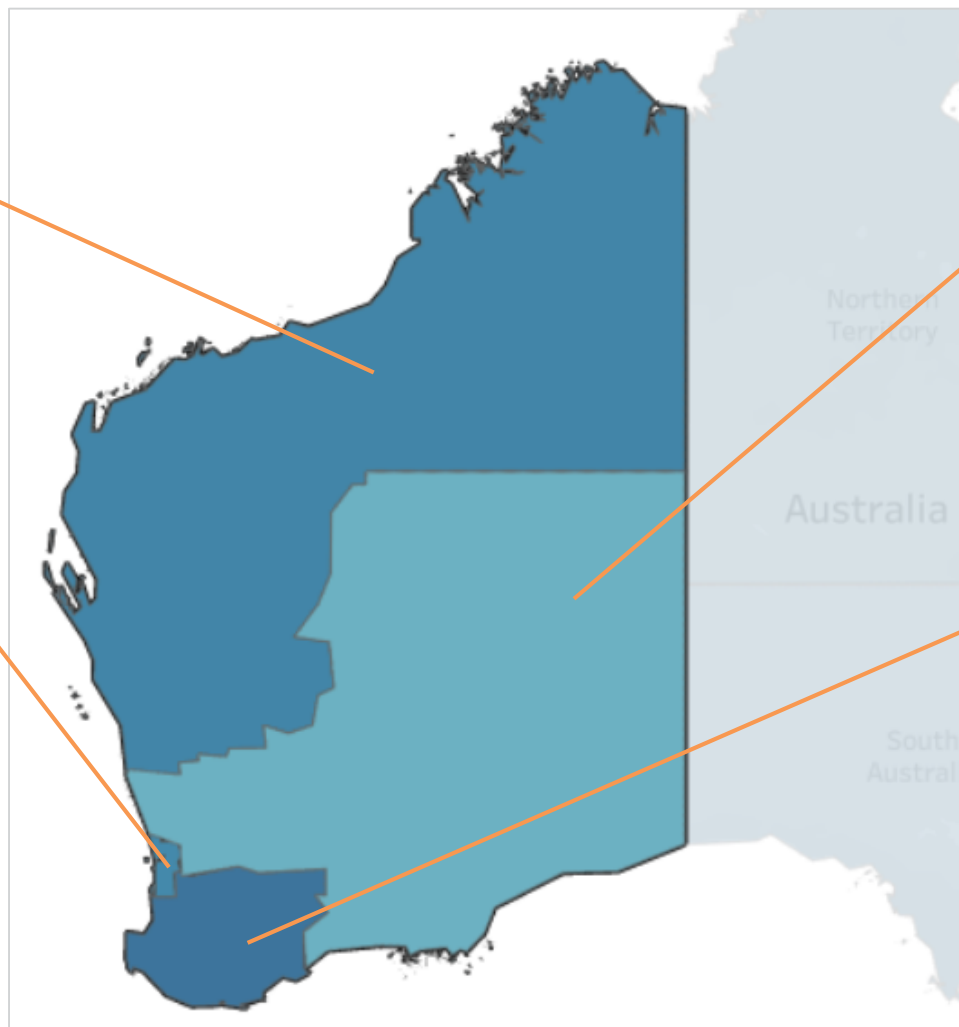
INTERNET ADVERTISED VACANCIES: AUGUST 2019

Pilbara & Kimberley
1,607

Perth
12,864

Goldfields & Southern WA
1,299

South West WA
633



VACANCIES: AUGUST 2019 & PERCENTAGE CHANGE SINCE AUGUST 2017

Pilbara & Kimberley

1,607

↑ **18.2%**

Perth

12,864

↑ **12.2%**

Goldfields & Southern WA

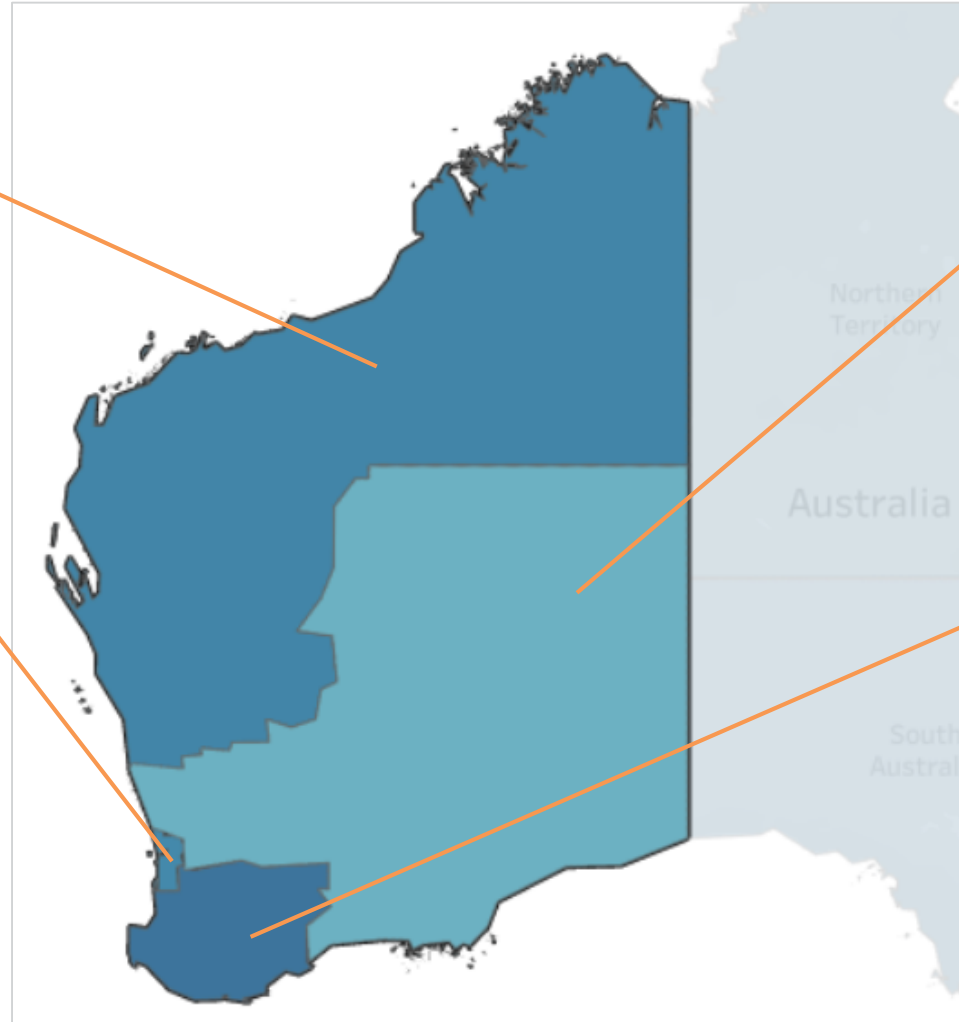
1,299

↑ **15.4%**

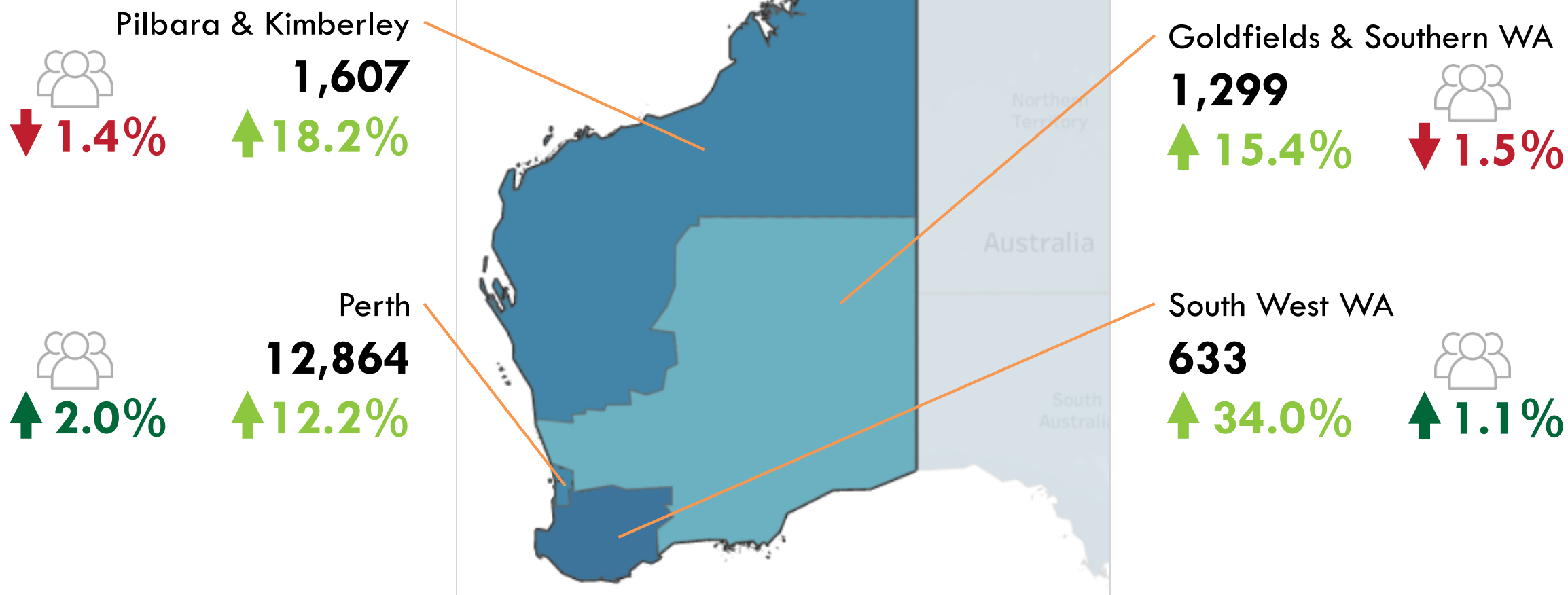
South West WA

633

↑ **34.0%**



VACANCIES vs ANNUAL POPULATION CHANGE (2016-2018)



LOOKING AT POPULATION

- International migration is 50% of Australia's population growth
- International migration enabled 151 regional LGAs to stabilise or grow their population (2011-16)
- Regional Australia's population growth is lower as it attracts a small share of international migrants (about 15% of all international migrants)
- Many small towns in rural and remote areas are struggling to attract the people they need to support their local economy and sustain their communities

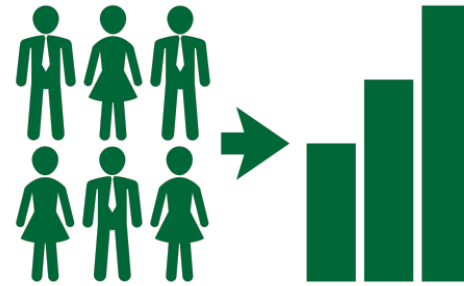
CONTRIBUTION OF PERMANENT MIGRANTS



Help to fill
workforce
shortages



Create
new jobs



Important
source of
population
growth



Revitalise
the local
community

INCREASING REGIONAL MIGRATION

- New/revised Population Plan and regional visas
- BUT little movement away from regional hubs  **Importance of community led initiatives**
- A number of recent examples of regional communities taking a proactive and coordinated approach to attracting groups of new migrants.
- No “one-size fits all”, careful planning in each required to ensure sustainability.



HAMILTON, VIC | Population 9974

The Great South Coast Economic Migration Project has only just started in the town of Hamilton. The purpose of the project is to offer regional settlement to families from African backgrounds who have lived in Australia for more than five years, to fill localised skill shortages particularly in the agricultural industry.



NHILL, VIC | Population 2184

Luv-a-Duck poultry farm needed to fill jobs that couldn't be sourced locally. It now employs more than 50 Karen. A report commissioned by AMES, and undertaken by Deloitte Access Economics, found the economic impact of this increased labour supply, in terms of Gross Regional Product, was estimated to be \$41.5 million.



DALWALLINU, WA | Population 1 284

Stuart McAlpine came up with the idea of the Regional Repopulation Project (RRP) to attract and retain new residents. The RRP welcomed and supported new residents to start their Australian life in Dalwallinu, leading to substantial local population growth – around 15% – with 62 new residents since 2010.



BILOELA, QLD | Population 5758

Biloela has a goal to increase the population to 10,000 by 2030. The town was part of a federally funded planned settlement program pilot, where refugees filled jobs at the local meatworks and in other agricultural based industries. To date there are around 50 migrant families living in Biloela.



STEPS TO SETTLEMENT SUCCESS

A TOOLKIT FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

THE 7 BUILDING BLOCKS OF SETTLEMENT SUCCESS



1. INITIATING A
SETTLEMENT STRATEGY



2. ORGANISING AND CONSULTING
LOCAL COMMUNITY



3. WELCOMING AND HOSTING
NEW MIGRANTS



4. SECURING EMPLOYMENT
FOR NEW MIGRANTS



5. SECURING HOUSING
FOR NEW MIGRANTS



6. FOSTERING COMMUNITY
COHESION



7. CONSIDERING CULTURE,
CUSTOMS AND ENVIRONMENT

INITIATING A SETTLEMENT STRATEGY: IS THERE A DRIVER?



How and why will the community benefit from more migrants? E.g. labour shortage, population decline...)



What can the community offer to migrants (i.e. why might they relocate?)



What are the community goals for migration?

ORGANIZING AND CONSULTING LOCAL COMMUNITY



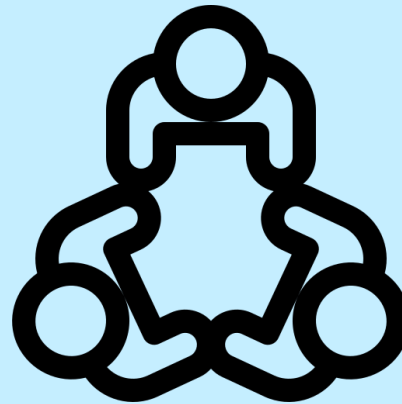
- What role will Council play?
- How best to consult with community?
- What community organizations and volunteer groups are available locally?
- What information or support does the community need?

WELCOMING AND HOSTING NEW MIGRANTS

Provide
information to new
prospective
migrants



How can migrants
be welcomed and
supported by the
local community?



What support for
rental applications,
enrolment in
schools,
documentation etc.?



EMPLOYMENT

SOURCES OF EMPLOYEES:



Secondary migrants
from Australian cities
and other towns



Skilled migrants
directly from overseas



Humanitarian entrants

Where and how are job vacancies being advertised?

How can employers ensure successful employment for migrants?

HOUSING

- What are housing stock levels? What alternatives may there be?
- Is short-term housing available?
- Applicants may not have a rental history, how to overcome this?

FOSTERING COMMUNITY COHESION

- How can migrants feel engaged in the community?
- Key factors of
 - Work
 - Education or training
 - Sport
 - Community activities
 - Faith

CONSIDERING CULTURE, CUSTOMS and ENVIRONMENT



- Origin and background
- Events and festivals
- Churches and shrines
- Safety
- Youth
- Land
- Transport
- Be mindful of cultural misunderstandings or lack of knowledge of Australian ways.

DETAILED STEPS TO SETTLEMENT SUCCESS: A CHECKLIST

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Identify specific motivation for attracting migrants to your community. | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Obtain biographical information from migrants to be able to match their housing, lifestyle and employment needs and aspirations with those of the community. | <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Organise and facilitate English learning through casual get-togethers (language cafes, art and craft groups) as well as more formal education settings. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Identify incentives for migrants to come and stay (jobs, housing, land). | <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Assist with visas, travel costs, connecting with training, language and support services where necessary. | <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Encourage migrants to join and participate in local clubs and events for social engagement. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Compare local cost of living to major cities. | <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Match migrants to specific job vacancies and housing. | <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Identify and engage migrants in work-related training and networking opportunities. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Consult local community about proposed migration initiative, including the background of prospective arrivals (origin and culture). | <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Encourage conversations between real estate agents, churches, local council and businesses and to support migrants' initial accommodation arrangements. | <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Give new migrants a chance to organise events and festivals to share culture and traditions and feel part of the local decision-making process. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Appoint a steering committee to oversee the initiative (pre- and post- arrival). | <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Ensure there are appropriate and available housing options for long-term accommodation. | <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Host regular information sessions to educate migrants (re: environmental awareness etc.) and notify them of upcoming events or activities. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Identify available jobs, housing stock, farmland, schools, communal spaces. | <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Establish a 'buddies'/ family facilitators system. | <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Support migrants with facilities that would enable farming practice such as land, machinery, irrigation and the use of farm-based equipment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Organise weekend visits for migrants (where possible). | <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Encourage multiple families to migrate together and enrol their children in the same schools. | <input type="checkbox"/> 21. Create and support young adult migrants to stay and work locally (e.g. through apprenticeships) to encourage migrant families to stay in regional areas for the long term. |

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**NEXT
STEPS**

WHO

WHEN



LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION



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Development
& Migration
Network

AN INITIATIVE OF



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