

NATSEM SEMINAR Thursday 4th March 2010

Spatial research at BITRE

Presented by Leanne Johnson

**Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE)
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local
Government**

The regional and cities research teams of the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE) investigate social and economic conditions for all different parts of Australia. In this presentation, Leanne Johnson will discuss some of BITRE's recent spatial research and modelling, focusing on three examples:

- The Household Wealth study, released in 2009, which used small area estimation techniques to develop new estimates of average household wealth at a small area scale.
- Current research on spatial retailing costs, which includes a synthetic index for grocery prices for Australian urban centres and localities.
- A study of the spatial distribution of population growth, jobs growth and commuting flows in Perth, the first from BITRE's new Cities Research Team.

The aims, methodology and key findings of each of these projects will be briefly discussed. While the studies adopt quite different methodological approaches, all seek to improve the evidence base for Australia's cities and regions and to better understand the role of place.

Leanne Johnson is the Urban Research Leader at the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics. Her key responsibilities are providing analytical support for cities policy development and preparing a series of reports covering spatial aspects of population, employment and commuting in Australia's five largest cities. Since joining BITRE in 2002, Leanne has authored reports on industry structure, social capital and household wealth in Australia's regions. She has also managed BITRE research on industry trends, income support payments, Tasmania's economic development and the About Australia's Regions statistical booklet. Prior to joining BITRE, she worked at the Bureau of Tourism Research and spent about five years undertaking economic research at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Leanne holds an honours degree in economics from the University of Melbourne.

Date: Thursday 4th March 2010
Time: 11am - 12 noon
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