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Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics Division

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United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
First Meeting
New York, 30 October - 1 November 2013

Agenda: Item 8

Geographic Classifications [1]

Prepared by
Australia Bureau of Statistics

[1] This document is being produced without formal editing

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Statistical Spatial Framework

Geographic Classifications

Presentation to UN Statistical-Geospatial Expert Group
October 2013

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Background

What is a Classification?

A classification groups data into meaningful categories. A well constructed classification has categories that are mutually exclusive and exhaustive. Each category of a classification also has a description and a unique code to enable users to identify the category.

Classifications are structured to be hierarchical or flat. Hierarchical classifications range from the broadest, most general categories to the most detailed, specific categories. Flat classifications do not have a hierarchy. Classifications promote data comparability across surveys and they are used in;

- data collection
- data processing
- data presentation
- data analysis

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Criteria for development of ASGS

- Stable
- Optimised for statistical purposes
  - Production, confidentiality, use in analysis
- Meaningful areas
- Functionally based, but
- Support for important administrative areas

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Functional vs Administrative

- A functional region is organized around a focal point with the surrounding areas linked to that point by transportation systems, communication systems, or other economic association involving such activities as service industries, manufacturing, education etc.
- Small administrative regions are based on local government agencies such as districts or regions. They can vary greatly in size and are subject to change by governments.

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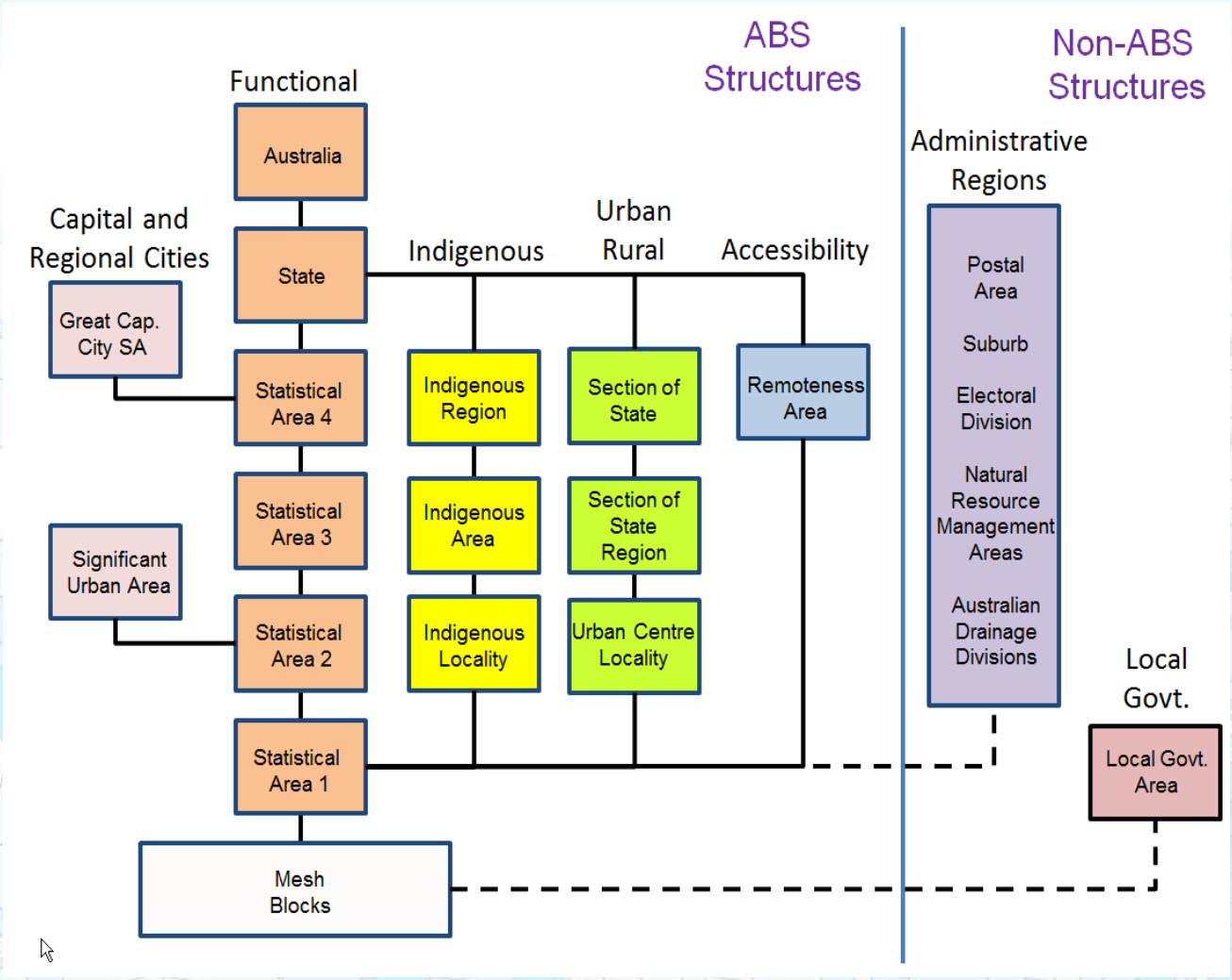
Standard Geographic Definitions – the ASGS



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Statistical Spatial Framework

Mesh Blocks

Statistical Spatial Framework

SA1s

Mesh Blocks

Statistical Spatial Framework

MAIN

SA2s

SA1s

Mesh Blocks

Statistical Spatial Framework

MAIN

SA3s

SA2s

SA1s

Mesh Blocks

Statistical Spatial Framework

MAIN

- SA4s
- SA3s
- SA2s
- SA1s
- Mesh Blocks

Statistical Spatial Framework

MAIN

- States/ Territories
- SA4s
- SA3s
- SA2s
- SA1s
- Mesh Blocks

Statistical Spatial Framework

MAIN

- Australia
- States/ Territories
- SA4s
- SA3s
- SA2s
- SA1s
- Mesh Blocks

Statistical Spatial Framework

MAIN

CAPITAL CITY

- Australia
- States/ Territories
- SA4s
- SA3s
- SA2s
- SA1s
- Mesh Blocks

Greater Cap.City Statistical Areas

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Support for users – data conversion

Any Geographic Region	Any ASGS Region	ASGS SA2 and above	Large Regions
Overlay Process	Allocation Table	Coding Index	Apply Correspondence
Geocoded Records	MB Geo-referenced Records	Locality, Postcode, State	Postcode, State

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ABS would be happy to meet your agency to discuss or present

For more information

E-mail: geography@abs.gov.au

Visit: www.nss.gov.au