

## CHAPTER 3 : THE SPATIAL UNITS OF THE CLASSIFICATION

1 The spatial unit types which have been incorporated in the ASGC and the criteria relevant to their delimitation are outlined in this chapter.

### Census Collection District (CD)

2 The CD is the smallest spatial unit type in the ASGC. It has been designed for use in the Census of Population and Housing as the basic collection, coding, processing, tabulation and publication unit. Its use in other statistics is limited, at present, to the compilation and release of building approval statistics in certain areas. CDs are defined for each population census and are current only at census time, ie at the effective date of the relevant census related ASGC edition.

3 The basic concept of a CD is that of a ten day field workload area of a census collector which also serves as the smallest area building block in the ASGC for the aggregation of CD statistics for higher level ASGC spatial units.

4 In urban areas CDs average about 300 dwellings, while in rural areas the number of dwellings per CD reduces as population densities decrease. For the 1981 Census of Population and Housing 26,759 CDs were delimited throughout Australia. For the 1986 Census the number of CDs was 29,632.

5 The criteria according to which CDs for the 1991 Census are delimited are as follows:

- (a) CDs should be consistent with both the collector's workload requirements and their role as a useful spatial unit and building block capable of aggregation into broader level ASGC spatial units;
- (b) the area and population delimited by a CD boundary must not be so great that one collector cannot deliver and collect census forms within about ten days;
- (c) the chosen CD boundaries should, if possible, be readily identifiable on the ground, be defined in terms of permanent features, follow the centre of a road or river if these features are used and should delimit CDs which conform to existing and proposed land uses. The use of major roads as CD boundaries in rural areas should be avoided where possible, i.e. to minimise splitting of identifiable rural localities.
- (d) CDs should conform where possible to existing/gazetted suburb boundaries. CDs must not cross SLA boundaries and, as a consequence, any other ASGC spatial unit boundary.
- (e) CDs should not be designed in such a way as to make them confidential for publication of data. Accordingly, a CD should contain, where possible, at least 100 persons at the next census. (Any CD found at the next census to have less than 100 persons will be combined with another CD for output, ie publication purposes); and
- (f) CDs in aggregate must cover the whole of Australia without omission or duplication.

6 More detailed rules and procedures for delimiting CDs are contained in the ABS Collection District Design and Geographical Data Base Update Manual.

## Statistical Local Area (SLA)

7 The SLA is a Legal LGA based or equivalent spatial unit which serves as the smallest spatial unit for the coding, compilation and publication of economic, social and demographic statistics (other than those collected in population censuses) and as a key intermediate level spatial unit for the compilation and publication of population census statistics.

8 SLAs must consist of one or more Census Collection Districts at the time when CDs are current (ie at population census time) and must cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They are the largest area building blocks of which the Legal LGAs, Statistical Retail Areas, Statistical Subdivisions and Statistical Region Sectors are composed.

9 Within that part of Australia which is covered by incorporated Local Government councils, SLAs are Legal LGA based spatial units, while in the remainder of Australia SLAs are Legal LGA equivalent spatial units.

10 The criteria according to which SLAs are delimited are as follows:

(a) A Legal LGA is adopted as an SLA if it meets the following criteria:

- (i) fits wholly within a Statistical Subdivision and a Statistical Retail Area, and
- (ii) is broadly similar in size, economic and statistical significance to equivalent Legal LGAs, elsewhere in Australia.

(b) A Legal LGA which does not satisfy the conditions in (a)(i) and/or (ii) above must, in general, be split into parts which do satisfy these conditions. Each such part must then be treated as an SLA. The circumstances in which Legal LGAs are split are:

- (i) where the boundaries of one or more Statistical Subdivisions, or of a Statistical Retail Area, cut across a Legal LGA, the Legal LGA must be split into two or more parts – each corresponding to that which falls within the relevant Statistical Subdivision or Statistical Retail Area, and
- (ii) where, on a consensus of subjective assessments, a particular Legal LGA is substantially different from other equivalent Legal LGAs in terms of size and economic significance or in terms of user needs for statistics, the Legal LGA can be split into two or more parts – each corresponding to one or more suburbs in the case of predominantly urban LGAs. (The number of Legal LGAs split so far on this basis is very small and includes the City of Brisbane as the major example.)

- (c) All unincorporated on-shore areas and off-shore islands within a Statistical Subdivision of an Australian State must be treated as one SLA unless a part of such an unincorporated area is considered economically significant. In these instances separate SLAs can be formed, eg for each unincorporated off-shore island (or designated group of unincorporated off-shore islands) which, on the basis of a consensus of subjective assessments, is considered to be economically significant – each such SLA is included in the State or Territory which has jurisdiction over it (eg, Lord Howe Island in NSW).
- (d) Oil rigs and other man-made platforms are formed into a set of seven 'off-shore' areas, one per State and the Northern Territory. Each State and Territory set of off-shore areas is then treated as a separate SLA of the relevant State or Territory.
- (e) In the Northern Territory the unincorporated area within each Statistical Subdivision is either adopted as a single SLA (eg as in the case of Daly) or split into two or more Legal LGA equivalent SLAs to separately distinguish an economically significant town (eg Nhulunbuy), island (eg Groote Eylandt) or administrative region. (It might be noted that all of the NT is unincorporated with the exception of the areas covered by the Legal LGAs of Darwin, Alice Springs, Jabiru, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Palmerston and Litchfield.)
- (f) In the Australian Capital Territory, which is entirely unincorporated, each Statistical Subdivision is split into two or more Legal LGA equivalent SLAs to separately distinguish:
- (i) within the 'Canberra Statistical Division', each suburb, locality and predominantly non-urban ACT District (or balance thereof), and
  - (ii) within the 'Australian Capital Territory – Balance Statistical Division', each contiguous area.

### Statistical Subdivision (SSD)

11 The SSD is the smaller of two statistical 'general purpose' regional type spatial units in the ASGC – the other is the Statistical Division.

12 SSDs must consist of one or more Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and must cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They are the largest area building blocks of which the Statistical Divisions and Statistical Districts are composed.

13 The criteria according to which SSDs are delimited are basically the same as for Statistical Divisions. This means that:

- (a) SSDs which are mainly non-urban, ie outside State Capital City Statistical Divisions or outside Statistical Districts are, in general, delimited in accordance with the Statistical Division criteria in paragraphs 16 and 17 (b) below; and
- (b) SSDs which are mainly urban, ie within State Capital City Statistical Divisions or within Statistical Districts and represent dissections of these Divisions or Districts, are in general, delimited only in accordance with the more broadly stated Statistical Division criteria in paragraph 16 below.

In addition, the following conditions also apply:

- (i) each Statistical District that falls entirely within a State or Territory must consist of one or more whole SSDs,
- (ii) each Statistical District that straddles a State/Territory boundary must consist of one or more whole SSDs on either side of the boundary, and
- (iii) a Statistical Division which contains an SSD that is also a Statistical District (or part of a Statistical District) must have at least one other SSD constituting the remainder of the Statistical Division even though that second SSD may not have a predominant town or cluster of towns that wields a unifying social and economic influence over the region.

### Statistical Division (SD)

14 The SD is the larger of two statistical 'general purpose' regional type spatial units in the ASGC – the smaller one is the Statistical Subdivision (SSD).

15 SDs must consist of one or more Statistical Subdivisions and must cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They must not cross State or Territory boundaries and are the largest statistical area building blocks of which the Australian States and internal Territories are composed.

16 The currently applicable basis for delimiting SDs was determined by the 31st and 33rd Conferences of Statisticians of Australia in 1969 and 1973. Resolution 2 of the 1973 Conference states:

- (a) that Statistical Divisions should ideally be delimited in all States on the basis of socio-economic criteria and should where possible embrace contiguous whole legal local government areas;
- (b) that the boundaries of the Statistical Divisions so delimited should be changed only at infrequent intervals, for example, at periods of 15 to 20 years; and
- (c) that, if practicable, such revisions in Statistical Division boundaries should be determined in time for use in the next Census of Population and Housing.

17 Elaborations of this general basis for delimiting SDs are supplied by the Resolutions of the 1969, ie 31st, Conference of Statisticians which are mainly concerned with delimiting urban centres, and the guidelines incorporated in the ABS 'Collection District Design and Geographic Data Base Update Manual'.

These provide:

(a) that delimitation of State capital city SDs is to be based on Resolution 3 of the 1969 Conference as subsequently amended by general agreement in 1975. This amended Resolution, which also applies to Statistical Districts, states:

"That around each urban centre with a population of at least 25,000 a further boundary encompassing a Statistical District or Capital City Statistical Division (see Resolution 8(a) and 8(b)), shall be defined after consultation with planners, to contain the anticipated development of the urban centre and associated smaller urban centres for a period of at least twenty years. It shall consist of whole local government areas if possible. Where suitable municipal, city or town boundaries contain the urban centre they may be used as statistical district boundaries. This fixed boundary (as distinct from the urban boundary which is moving) will delimit an area which, for general statistical purposes, is free from the practical problems imposed by the moving boundary, but which nevertheless represents the city in a wider sense. This procedure shall not be applied to separate urban centres within Statistical Districts or within Capital City Statistical Divisions." And

(b) that in delimiting other SDs, subparagraph (a) of Resolution 2 of the 33rd, ie 1973, Conference of Statisticians (reproduced in paragraph 16 above) should be interpreted to mean that an SD should be a relatively homogeneous region characterised by identifiable social and economic links between the inhabitants and between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.

18 In accordance with the foregoing, Statistical Divisions have been delimited within individual States and Territories as follows:

(a) In NEW SOUTH WALES proclaimed NSW Government Regions coincide with Statistical Divisions with one exception; the proclaimed NSW Government Region of NORTH COAST consists of the SDs of Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast. The boundaries of these Regions have been delimited on the basis that the degree of economic and social intercourse within each Region should be maximised. Statistical and other data used in delimiting the boundaries have included available information about transport patterns, the intensity of trunk telephone calls to and from major cities and towns, the pattern of retail shopping and the marketing of fresh goods, circulation areas of some provincial newspapers and coverage of principal radio stations.

(b) In VICTORIA the Statistical Divisions correspond with the State Planning Regions adopted by the Victorian Government in October 1981 except in the Port Phillip Region and, because of consequential effects, the Central Highlands and Loddon-Campaspe Regions. The Victorian Government's Port Phillip Region is comprised of the Melbourne and East Central Statistical Divisions and the Shires of Bacchus Marsh and Gisborne which are in the Central Highlands and Loddon-Campaspe Statistical Divisions respectively.

The Planning Regions are the largest units of a three tier system consisting of Regions, Subregions and Legal LGAs. Subregions, in all but exceptional cases, are aggregates of whole Legal LGAs, and Regions are always aggregates of Subregions. The boundaries of these Regions and Subregions have been delimited by taking account of the following:

- (i) comparisons with other ways of dividing the State, including the previous Central Planning Authority regions, and various areas used for the presentation of statistics,
- (ii) natural physical systems, such as climatic, river, geological, topographic and geographic systems,
- (iii) regional communication systems, and
- (iv) various functional socio-economic factors such as patterns of travel, shopping and employment, newspaper circulation, regional zoning of sporting, social and community welfare organisations and library and hospital regions.

(c) In QUEENSLAND formal State Planning Regions have been abolished and SDs accord with the general considerations and criteria outlined in paragraphs 14 to 17 above. Nevertheless, they are also used on an informal basis for State Government planning purposes, where relevant.

(d) In SOUTH AUSTRALIA State Planning Regions, as proposed by the Committee on Uniform Regional Boundaries for Government Departments (CURB), were adopted by the South Australian Government in 1976. The South Australian SDs and SSDs are based on them. CURB Regions are based on two distinct, but complementary, sets of criteria. The first set is oriented towards defining the region as a structural entity on the basis of such factors as:

- . population distribution, density and change,
- . production data,
- . dominant occupations in industrial and rural sectors,
- . socio-economic, ethnic and social factors, and
- . existing political boundaries (eg local government), etc.

while the second set of criteria is oriented towards defining the region as a functional entity on the basis of the following type of factors:

- . government department service areas,
- . newspaper circulation,
- . telephone traffic,
- . retail trading patterns, and
- . traffic flows, etc.

As mentioned above, South Australian Statistical Divisions and Subdivisions are based on, but are not always congruent with, the CURB Regions. Even though the Statistical Divisions are not, in every case, identical with CURB Regions, in all cases they are directly convertible to these Regions. For instance, the Adelaide and Outer Adelaide Statistical Divisions comprise four CURB Regions, and statistical information for these four CURB Regions can be obtained by aggregating Statistical Subdivisions within the Adelaide and Outer Adelaide Statistical Divisions.

(e) In WESTERN AUSTRALIA State Planning Regions and Subregions, as proposed by the State Statistical Coordination Committee, were adopted by the Western Australian Government in January 1976. The Western Australian SDs and SSDs coincide with them. These Regions and Subregions have been devised in accordance with the following criteria:

(i) the Perth Metropolitan Region and the Subregions within it should be delimited in such a way that:

- . they are consistent with the overall concepts and planning details proposed in the Town Planning Department's 'Corridor Plan for Perth',
- . they must take cognizance of Legal LGAs, and
- . they should be built up from smaller units such as CDs; and

(ii) delimitation of the rural regions and subregions should take cognizance of:

- . the concept of 'community of economic and social interest',
- . the character of natural resources,
- . area dispersion of population and industry and the size of towns,
- . road and railway systems, and
- . production and marketing practices, etc.

(f) In TASMANIA the SDs accord with the general considerations and criteria outlined in paragraphs 14 to 17 above and are also considered to be satisfactory for the purpose of State Government planning.

(g) In the NORTHERN TERRITORY SDs are based on Territory Government Administrative Regions, and are consistent with the general considerations and criteria for their delimitation as described in paragraphs 14 to 17 above.

(h) In the AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY SDs accord with the general considerations and criteria for their delimitation as described in paragraphs 14 to 17 above.

### **State/Territory (S/T)**

19 The State/Territory is the largest type of spatial unit in the ASGC. There are six States and two Territories in Australia, viz New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. They are political entities with fixed boundaries and the total area of each (including their off-shore islands) is used for statistical purposes as a separate spatial unit in the ASGC.

### **Statistical District (S Dist.)**

20 In a broad sense Statistical Districts are the more important, predominantly urban (or potentially predominantly urban) areas of Australia outside State Capital City Statistical Divisions. There are, at present, 20 Statistical Districts in Australia and each is composed of one or more Statistical Subdivisions. Whilst the majority are contained wholly within one State/Territory, Statistical Districts can and, in three instances, actually do cross State boundaries.

21 The criteria for delimiting Statistical Districts are the same as for Capital City Statistical Divisions, described in paragraph 17(a), but apply to population clusters (ie an urban centre, or two or more urban centres in close proximity) with a population of 25,000 or more. Like in the case of a State Capital City Statistical Division, the boundary of a Statistical District should contain the anticipated urban development of the centre for a period of at least twenty years and can cut across Legal LGAs which consist of urban and rural parts – see paragraph 30 below for urban centre criteria. Additionally, a Statistical District may also be delimited in the case of an urban centre with less than 25,000 population where the ABS determines that there is a demand for intercensal population estimates for the area and that existing Legal LGA or SLA boundaries are obviously inadequate for this purpose.

### **Legal Local Government Area (Legal LGA)**

22 The Legal Local Government Area is a type of spatial unit which represents the whole undivided geographical area of responsibility of an incorporated Local Government Council. There are over 830 Legal LGAs in Australia which collectively cover only a part of Australia. (The major areas not covered by Legal LGAs are the large northern parts of South Australia, almost all of the Northern Territory and all of the Australian Capital Territory.)

23 The number of Legal LGAs and their boundaries are unstable over time. Their creation and delimitation is the responsibility of the respective State Governments and is governed by the provision of State Local Government Acts.

24 The various types of Legal LGAs in each State are:

- . NEW SOUTH WALES: Cities\*, Municipalities and Shires
- . VICTORIA: Cities, Towns, Boroughs and Shires
- . QUEENSLAND: Cities, Towns and Shires
- . SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Cities\*, Municipalities & District Councils
- . WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Cities, Towns and Shires
- . TASMANIA: Cities\* and Municipalities
- . NORTHERN TERRITORY: Cities, Towns and Shires.

(NOTE: \* Municipalities proclaimed as Cities)

### **Statistical Region Sector (SRS)**

25 Statistical Region Sectors cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps and consist, conceptually, of one or more SLAs although, in practice, most SRSs (ie all those outside the Melbourne, Brisbane and Moreton SDs) can be expressed in terms of one or two or more adjoining SSDs. Further, most SRSs equate with SRs. Those SRSs which are subdivisions of SRs are, on the whole, used primarily for the production and presentation of population census and labour force statistics outside the normal frameworks for standard statistical outputs from these collections. Additionally or alternatively, some of these SRSs are also used to present a wider range of statistics according to regional features, eg the Brisbane City rings and sectors, which could not be incorporated in ASGC main structure spatial units.



### **Statistical Region (SR)**

26 Statistical Regions consist of one or more SRSs and cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They were designed primarily as sufficiently large regional type spatial units which are suitable for the presentation of both population census and labour force statistics within the frameworks for standard statistical outputs from these collections. The minimum size of such regions, in terms of population, is 147,000.

### **Major Statistical Region (MSR)**

27 Major Statistical Regions consist of one or more SRs and cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They do not cross State or Territory boundaries and serve the same purpose as Statistical Regions, though at a broader spatial (ie Capital City SD versus Balance of State) level. (However, even this dissection could not, due to population size limitations, be implemented in the case of Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, each of which equates with an MSR.)

### **Statistical Retail Area (SRA)**

28 Statistical Retail Areas are defined for each Census of Retail Establishments and consist of one or more adjoining SLAs. They have been designed for use in the Census as the smallest spatial units for the publication of commodity and industry class statistics. Each SRA is intended to contain, as a general rule, at least 200 retail stores although in special cases this number may be considerably reduced. The main additional considerations which are taken into account when grouping SLAs into SRAs are as follows:

- (a) the socio-economic characteristics of the population,
- (b) transportation links,
- (c) topographical features (eg rivers or forests which form natural barriers between two areas), and
- (d) size of shopping centres.

29 Conceptually, SRAs must consist of one or more SLAs (current at the time of the relevant Census of Retail Establishments) and must, in aggregate, cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. Within States they cannot cross Statistical Subdivision boundaries. Retail population limitations force the combining of SLAs across SSD boundaries in the Northern Territory.

### **Urban Centre/(Rural) Locality (UC/L)**

30 Broadly an Urban Centre is a population cluster of 1,000 or more people or a known holiday resort of smaller population if it contains 250 or more dwellings of which at least 100 are occupied. A Locality is a population cluster of between 200 to 999 people. People living in Urban Centres are classified as urban for statistical purposes while those in Localities are classified as rural. Each Urban Centre and (Rural) Locality is bounded (ie a boundary for it is clearly defined) and composed of one or more whole Census Collection Districts (CDs). UC/Ls are defined for each population census and are current only at census time.

31 The criteria for delimiting or bounding Urban Centres and (Rural) Localities are based on those developed in 1965 by Dr G.J.R. Linge of the Australian National University. The criteria as currently in force, ie as adopted and subsequently amended by the Conference of Statisticians of Australia in 1965 and 1969, are set out below.

32 Each *URBAN CENTRE WITH A POPULATION OF 25,000 OR MORE* is to consist of a cluster of contiguous urban CDs and other urban areas. CDs and other areas classified as urban include the following:

(a) All contiguous CDs which have a population density of 200 or more persons per square kilometre shall be classified as urban. Consequently, State, Statistical Division, Legal LGA and other administrative boundaries shall be disregarded in determining whether a CD should be urban or rural.

(b) A CD which is known to contain a high proportion of holiday homes shall be classified as urban if it satisfies both the following criteria:

(i) it has 250 or more dwellings at least 100 of which are occupied at the time of Census, and

(ii) the dwelling density is 50 per sq km or greater.

(c) A CD consisting mainly of land used for factories, airports, small sports areas, cemeteries, hostels, institutions, prisons, military camps or certain research stations shall be classified as urban if contiguous with CDs which are themselves urban.

(d) Any CD which consists mainly of land used for large sporting areas, large parks, explosives handling and munitions areas, or holding yards associated with meatworks and abattoirs shall be classified as urban only if it is bordered on three sides by CDs which are themselves urban.

(e) Any area which is completely surrounded by CDs which are urban must itself be classified as urban.

(f) Where an urban area of 25,000 or more population is separated from another urban area by a gap in actual development of less than three kilometres (by the shortest rail or road distance), the gap shall be bridged by classifying a connecting CD as urban, and therefore treating the urban areas as one; if the gap is three or more kilometres (and whether or not it is comprised mainly of reserved land or a natural barrier) the urban areas shall remain separate.

(g) Any CD used as a "bridge" CD and therefore designated as urban in 1971, or thereafter, shall continue to be so included unless the population of the urban area of which it is part falls below 25,000, in which case this will cease to apply. However, if a CD was incorrectly included (for whatever reason) in a Linge area at one Census, then it should not be included at the next Census unless it now meets the criteria.

(h) Large peripheral CDs in growth areas can be fragmented; and insofar as the availability of visible boundary features allows, the fragments so created shall be as near square-shaped as possible and of such a size that they will contain a collection workload when fully developed. For the purposes of quantitatively delimiting Urban Centres such fragments shall be regarded as CDs.

33 Each *URBAN CENTRE WITH A POPULATION OF BETWEEN 1,000 AND 24,999* is to be devised as follows:

- (a) The Urban Centre shall be delimited subjectively (by the inspection of aerial photographs, by field inspection and/or by consideration of any other information that is available) – guidelines for this purpose are described in paragraph 35 below.
- (b) All contiguous urban growth is to be included (which, in small urban areas, would not necessarily occur if the density criterion was applied), together with any close but non-contiguous development which could be clearly regarded as part of the urban area. However, cognizance shall be taken, where appropriate, of Resolution 4 of the 31st Conference of Statisticians (paraphrased in paragraph 32 above), particularly in urban areas which are approaching a population of 25,000.
- (c) In selecting the boundaries for the splitting of Census Collection Districts, cognizance shall be taken, where appropriate, of the boundaries of land-use zones.

34 (*RURAL*) *LOCALITIES* are to be devised as follows:

- (a) All population clusters of less than 1,000 population and whose population is expected to reach 200 by the next census are to be examined as regards the drawing of a boundary around the area encompassing the cluster.
- (b) The following criteria must be satisfied before a boundary is drawn around a Locality. It must:
  - . contain a non-farm population of at least 200 people but not more than 999 by the next Census;
  - . have at least 40 occupied non-farm dwellings with a discernible urban street pattern; and
  - . have discernible nucleus of population.
- (c) If there is some doubt that a Locality will reach the minimum population of 200 people then a boundary should still be drawn around the Locality.
- (d) Where, in the case of defence camps, construction camps, etc it is anticipated that the cluster will not exist at two consecutive censuses, these camps should not be bounded.
- (e) The Localities shall be delimited subjectively, by the use of the latest available aerial photographs, by field inspection and/or by consideration of any other information that is available. Guidelines for this purpose are outlined in the following paragraph.

35 Guidelines for the drawing of subjectively determined Urban Centre and Locality boundaries are set out below:

- (a) Wide rather than narrow boundaries are to be used to ensure inclusion of urban or built up areas, ie it is preferable to include some rural rather than exclude some urban areas. However, this guideline should be interpreted in the light of those following below.
- (b) Continuity of urban development is the main criterion, ie boundaries are not to be thrown very wide just to include some small non-contiguous area or urban development. (The Linge criterion of 3 kilometres may be of assistance in this respect in larger Urban Centres of say greater than 10,000–15,000 population.)

(c) Where the subjective boundaries decided upon are contained within a municipal boundary and the 'remainder' so left is small and/or of small population, the municipal boundary is to be used.

(d) For previously bounded statistical cities, statistical towns or localities the boundaries are not to be changed lightly, ie comparability is to be maintained with the past unless there are significant exclusions (either due to faulty boundaries at the previous Census or subsequent development).

(e) Cognizance is to be taken of "approved plans" with regard to urban land usage.

(f) Topographic boundaries must be used wherever possible where consistent with the above guidelines. (In individual cases it may be necessary to consider whether it is advisable to relax the present practice of always taking the middle of a street or river as the boundary.)

### Section of State

36 Within a State or Territory each Section of State represents an aggregation of non-contiguous geographical areas of a particular urban type, with the rural balance constituting another Section of State. The Sections of State within each State and Territory are the following:

- (a) Major Urban : All urban centres with a population of 100,000 and over.
- (b) Other Urban : All urban centres with a population of 1,000 to 99,999.
- (c) Locality : All localities with a population of 200 to 999.
- (d) Rural Balance : The remainder of the State/Territory.

They are defined for each population census and are current only at census time, ie at the effective date of the relevant census related ASGC edition.

37 Urban Centres which are bisected by a State or Territory boundary have each half included in the relevant State's or Territory's Section of State.

### Off-Shore Area and 'Migratory' Categories

38 Off-shore oil rigs, drilling platforms and the like are treated collectively within each State and the Northern Territory as an off-shore area which is, for population census purposes, combined with the respective State/Territory 'migratory' categories as explained below.

39 The 'migratory' categories relate only to the Census of Population and Housing where it is not possible to code every person to an ASGC spatial unit below State or Territory level. The persons that cannot be so coded are those enumerated on board vessels in and between Australian ports, or on board long distance trains, buses or aircraft. Such persons are classified as migratory and attributed to a State or Territory.

40 To facilitate the recording of migratory populations in the Census, the ASGC provides within each State and the Northern Territory a migratory category at the CD level, even though such a category is not a spatial unit in the conventional sense. This migratory CD is then combined with the off-shore area CDs to form one Statistical Local Area, Statistical Subdivision and Statistical Division within each State and the Northern Territory.