

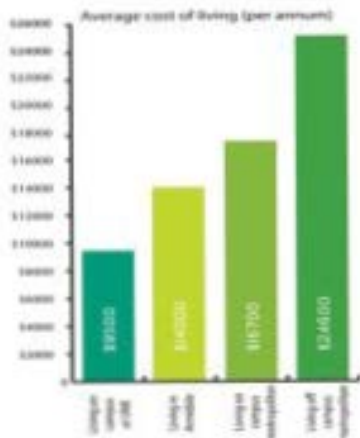
Education & Research to Sustain Rural Communities

Jim Barber

Crossing Theatre, Narrabri
April 2012

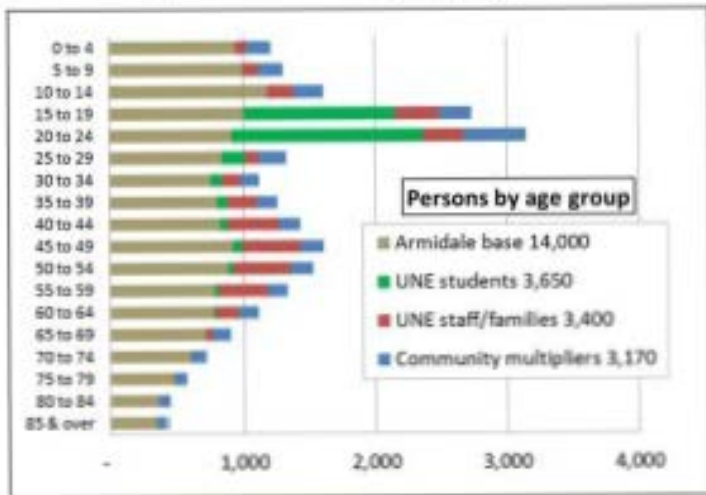


What's in it for Regional Students?

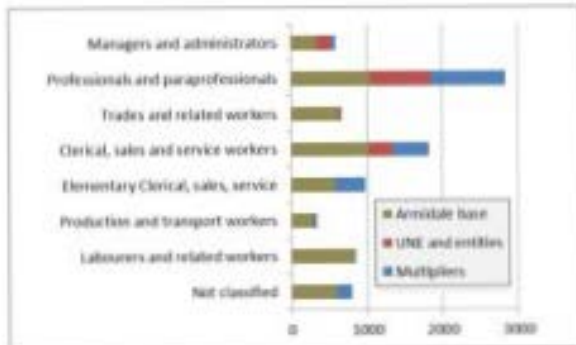


Source: Data compiled from various public and private sources, circa 2010-2011

What Would Happen to Regional Demography?



What Would be the Effect on Employment?



What would Happen to Housing, Other Capital & Services?



What About Culture and Sport?



belgrave cinema



Research

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So, How Do Regional Universities Contribute to Rural Sustainability?

- Affordability of tertiary education for regional students;
- Access to distance education for regional students;
- Demographic sustainability of the region;
- Principal source of the skilled workforce;
- Major employer in the region;
- Capital gains on real estate investments;
- Viability of cultural and sporting activities;
- Research focus on questions of regional and rural significance



Possible Policy Drivers for Regional Education & Research

1. Extend HECS to Student Accommodation
2. Deregulate HECS & Government Contribution
3. Tie University Performance Funding to Work of RDAs
4. Regional 'Flagship' Courses & Programs