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## Taking Stock: A significant impact of not having consistent Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) across Australia

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### Abstract

This paper highlights the inconsistency for users of ABS Statistical Local Areas (SLA) data between Australian States, and how this inconsistency can affect major policy decisions by Government. Drawing from the demographic analysis in the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) publication *Taking Stock: Report on the Survey of Non-Government Schools Infrastructure in Australia 2000/2001*, this paper will highlight the implications of how nationally inconsistent SLA and different demographic techniques in determining the Commonwealth's projections for new schools almost resulted in the Commonwealth redirecting \$80 million from NSW to Queensland over the next four years.

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