# Postcodes to 2011 Major Cities

*Notes on using the attached index (Postcodes\_to\_Major\_Cities\_11\_fulllist.csv) to assign postcodes to areas designated as Major Cities in the 2011 ABS Remoteness Classification*

The ABS 2011 Remoteness Classification was built by amalgamating 2011 Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s) into five classes of remoteness based on access to services, namely Very Remote Australia, Remote Australia, Outer Regional Australia, Inner Regional Australia and Major Cities of Australia.

The postcode boundaries used for reference are those purchased by the ABS from Pitney Bowes dated December 2012. An additional list of postcodes not covered by the Pitney Bowes list was derived from a complete list of 3312 current postcodes downloaded from the Australia Post website https://auspost.com.au/forms/postcode-data-registration.html.on 25 Jan 2013 and dated 29 Nov 12. These extra codes are typically post boxes and special purpose postcodes and since they have no spatial representation in ABS’s postcode boundaries dataset they have been manually assigned by the ABS as within or outside Major Cities for completeness.

Postcodes are, in Australia Post's words, “*maintained solely for mail processing purposes”*. They do not follow the ABS's 2011 SA1 boundaries very well. Therefore around the edge of ABS's Major Cities remoteness area a decision has been made whether to include a split postcode, based on population distribution determined by the 2011 Census dwelling count of underlying ABS mesh blocks. If the dwelling count in the portion of the postcode overlapping the Major Cities area exceeded the dwelling count in the portion outside, the postcode was deemed to be within the Major Cities remoteness area and vice versa.

This results in some postcodes being categorised as within Major Cities when significant parts of them are outside. An example is postcode 4510 in Queensland. Conversely some postcodes are deemed outside Major Cities even though a minority of dwellings are within the Major Cities boundary. An example is postcode 4520 in Queensland.

Furthermore, Australia Post postcodes are sometimes not contiguous which results in discrete parts of postcodes a considerable distance away from Major Cities boundaries being included in the Major Cities definition. An example is postcode 4306 in Queensland.

Examples are given in Queensland here to illustrate these situations in reasonably close proximity to each other. These cases, however, occur commonly around the boundaries of the Major Cities remoteness area in all states and territories where Major Cities are defined in the ABS Remoteness Classification.

**The above limitations and assumptions should be taken into consideration when using this index.**

**Sources of difference between this 2011 allocation and the previously released 2006 one**

Forty-two postcodes differ in their allocation from the previous file.Differences in inclusion in the Major Cities allocation can derive from several sources of change:

1. Remoteness Areas 2011 are built from aggregations of SA1s, a unit from the ABS’s new ASGS geographic classification. 2006 Remoteness Areas were built from CDs, a unit of the now superseded ASGC classification. SA1s and CDs, while broadly similar in size, have mismatching boundaries in most cases.
2. Postcode boundaries themselves can change over time. New postcodes are created and old ones are removed from use.
3. Population growth can affect the relative distribution of dwellings in postcodes that cross Remoteness Area boundaries.

**Explanation of column headings**

**POSTCODE** is the Australia Post postcode derived from Pitney Bowes boundary data at December 2012 and from a download of current postcodes from the Australia Post website on 25 January 2013.

**In\_Maj\_Cities.**  The postcode is considered either within or outside the Major City area.

**YES** means the whole or the majority of the Census 2011-recorded dwellings in this postcode are within the ABS's Major Cities of Australia remoteness areas classification (2011).

**NO** means the whole or the majority of the Census 2011-recorded dwellings in this postcode are outside the ABS's Major Cities of Australia remoteness areas classification (2011).

**STATE\_NAME** is the state/territory name within Australia. In cases where there is a conflict it refers to the S/T of the allocated remoteness area rather than the nominal S/T of the postcode’s leading digit.

**STATE\_CODE** The State Code relates to the standard ABS state codes, namely 1 = NSW, 2 = Vic, 3 = Qld, 4 = SA, 5 = WA, 6 = Tas, 7 = NT, 8 = ACT, 9 = Other Territories. The OTs of Cocos Keeling and Christmas Islands have WA postcodes (6799, 6798 respectively) and Jervis Bay Territory is included in NSW (2540) but all three are given the state code of the remoteness area.

**ALT\_STATE\_NAME\_1** and **ALT\_STATE\_CODE\_1** are relevant where a postcode crosses state or territory boundaries. There are 15 such postcodes. The alternative name/code refers to the state or territory other than the one that the postcode is allocated to by dwelling counts, eg ACT postcode 2611 crosses into NSW, so NSW and 1 is the alternative state name and state code.

**ALT\_STATE\_NAME\_2** and **ALT\_STATE\_CODE\_2** There is one case (0872) where the postcode covers three states (NT, SA & WA) .

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