



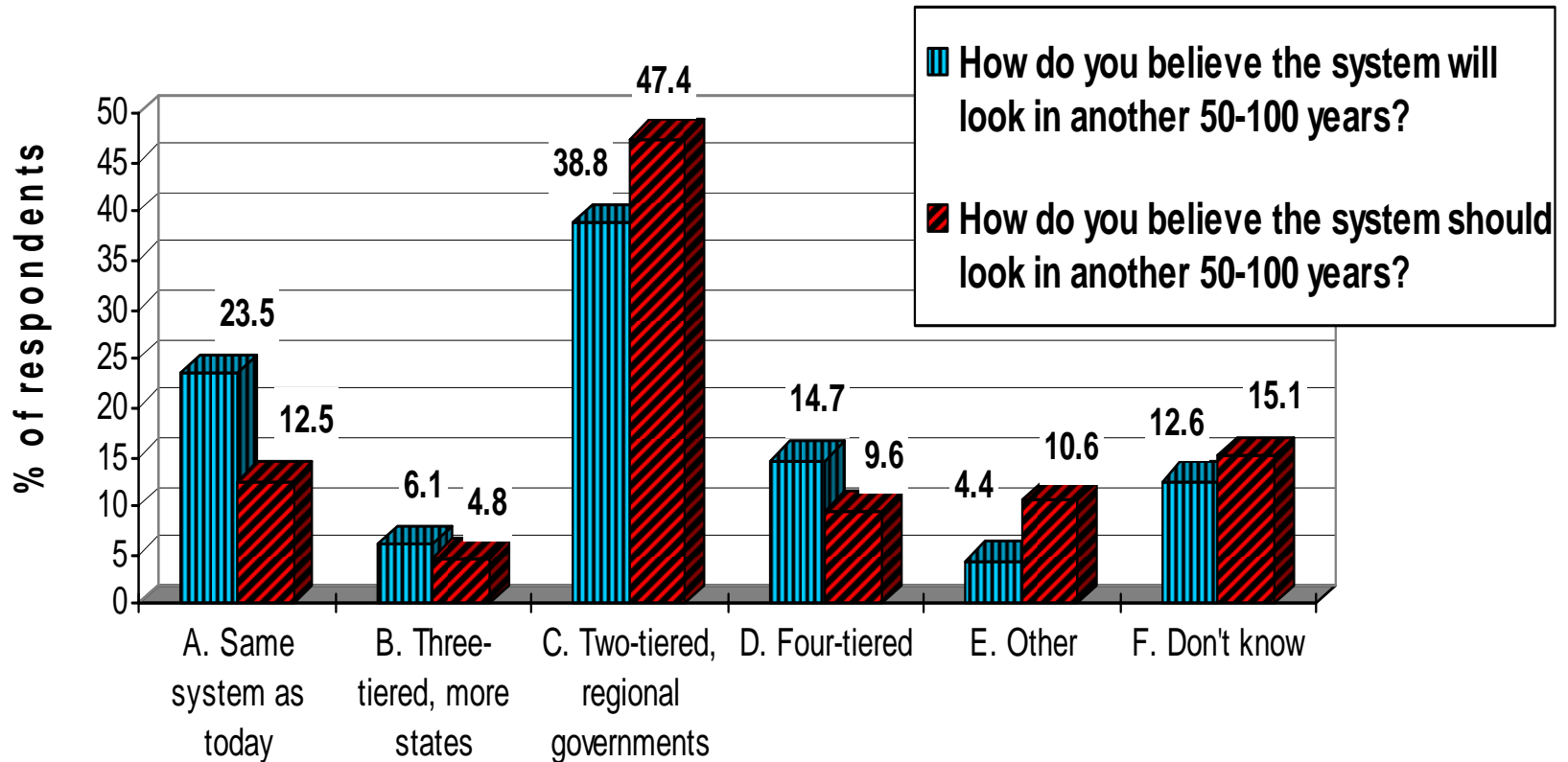
Regionalism, Railways and Local Government

Ian Gray

Regionalism

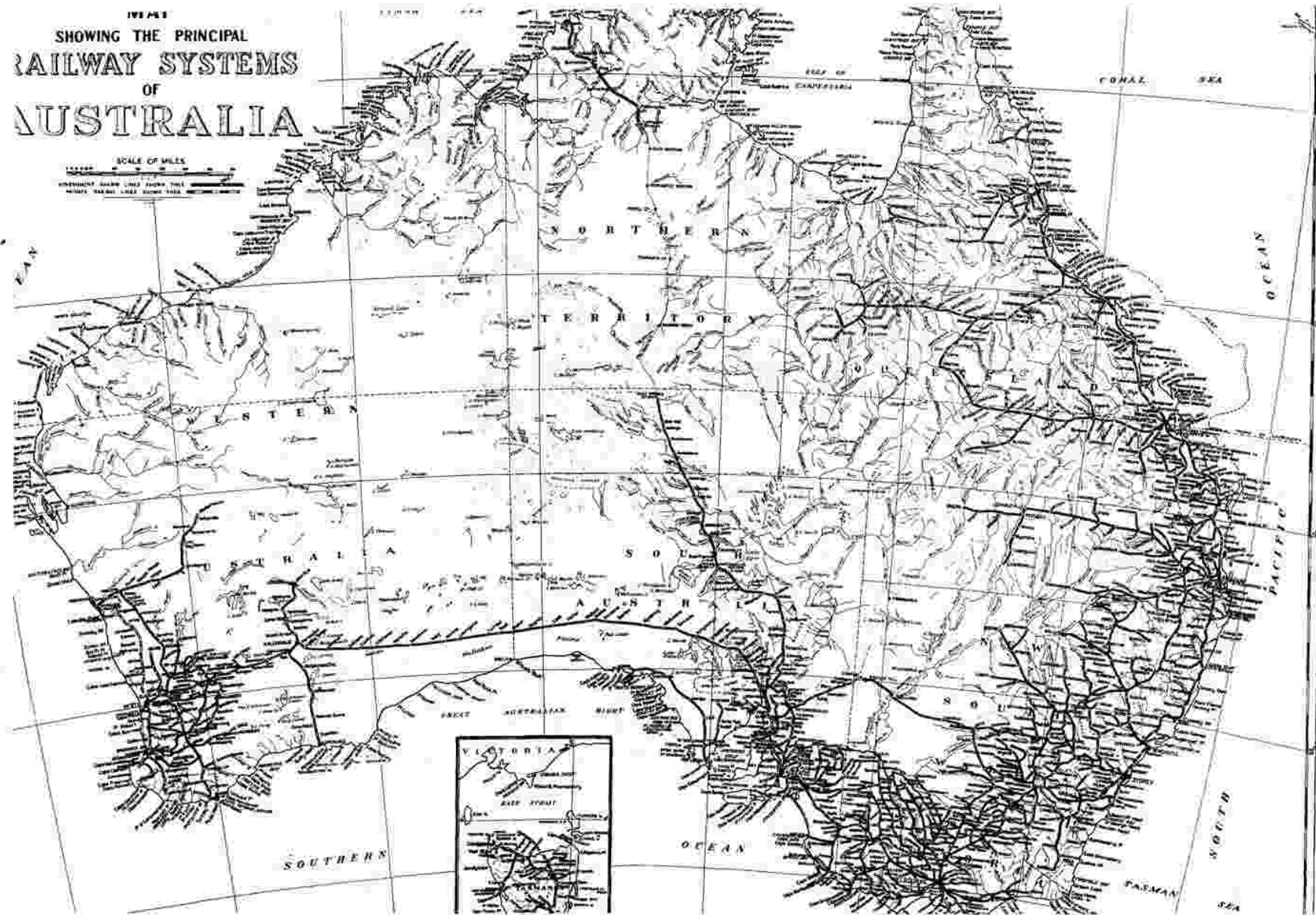
- The idea that there is an optimum area across which services, public or private, should be organised and provided
- *And* the idea that the people who have a stake in those regions should be involved in, if not controlling, the organisation of services
- In Australia the States, which provide most of people's day-to-day public services, are often *not* seen to be the optimum area for service provision

NSW Constitutional Values Survey - Australia has a three-tiered system of federal, state and local governments...



Source: Gray, *The Political Viability of Federal Reform, Federalism and Regionalism Symposium*, Parliament House, Sydney, May 2006

1924
SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL
RAILWAY SYSTEMS
OF
AUSTRALIA



The colonial customer was in Britain; the class enemy was in the bush.

Map source: NSWGR Country Timetable 1960

Australian local government is a product of localism, not regionalism.

Source: Chapman and Wood 1984

SPINNING THE WEB

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Table 1.3 Councils grouped by population: all states and the Northern Territory

Population	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	Total	%
0-500	—	—	5	3	10	3	—	21	2.4
500-749	1	1	6	3	8	1	—	24	2.8
750-999	—	1	2	9	9	4	—	25	2.9
1000-2499	19	30	24	40	50	10	1	174	20.0
2500-4999	61	54	36	26	16	12	—	205	23.5
5000-9999	45	45	26	17	19	7	1	160	18.4
10 000-14 999	16	12	10	7	6	5	1	57	6.5
15 000-24 999	13	18	9	6	7	3	—	56	6.4
25 000-49 999	24	24	8	8	9	3	1	77	8.8
50 000-99 999	15	19	6	6	3	1	—	50	5.7
100 000-249 999	13	6	—	—	1	—	—	20	2.3
250 000-499 999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0.0
500 000 +	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	0.1

Source: ACLGA, Discussion Paper No.2.

Localised in service, but not administration



Source: NSWGR Country Timetable 1969; SV Foulkes 1937



Local Government and Railways

‘... railway people, including railway workers, were convinced that some Narrandera street trees had been accidentally poisoned from a railway drain, but in 1983 the men in Sydney decided that this was not the case, and the council was obliged to let the matter drop.’

Source: Gammage, *Narrandera Shire*, 1986

A photograph of a railway station platform. A person is sitting on the edge of the platform, looking towards the camera. The platform is made of concrete and has a low wall. In the background, there are trees and a building with a corrugated metal roof. The text is overlaid on the image in red and yellow colors.

There has been very little application of regionalism to transport in Australia.

- Lots of 'nationalism', very sensibly in railways - but what about 'the regions'?
- Persistent anomalies
- Integration advantages of regionalisation
- Possibilities (and dangers) of 'localism'
- Regionalisation of local government