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There's still hope despite index rating concerns

The findings of a new online index measuring economic performance of regions across Australia should be of concern to everyone in the Great Southern Region (Page 3).

According to the index, released last week, the Great Southern is falling behind the rest of the nation when it comes to delivering infrastructure and essential services.

The Great Southern ranks in the bottom 20 in six key areas, including infrastructure and essential services.

That the region has been ranked so poorly in these areas should not come as any surprise. Many Great Southern towns are not getting any bigger and are struggling to survive.

Last year, Cranbrook, Tambellup, Gnowangerup and Jerramungup were ranked among the most vulnerable in WA by a Federal Government report.

But residents of the region should not despair. These shires have strong councils who are working diligently to ensure their towns' survival and the ongoing delivery of essential infrastructure and services.

Katanning's developing status as a regional SuperTown is a positive example of how proactive planning can lay the foundations for a strong future.

Hopefully the SuperTowns project can expand, its benefits flowing to towns like Cranbrook, Tambellup, Gnowangerup and Jerramungup.



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