



Social and Economic Indicators for NRM

The National Land & Water Resources Audit (the Audit) is working in partnership with Australian Government and State agencies to:

- ▶ identify national information needs under the National Natural Resource Management Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- ▶ coordinate data and information standards, and
- ▶ assemble data and information on the status of Australia's natural resources and their management.

The role of the Audit

The Natural Heritage Ministerial Board has tasked the Audit with coordinating the collation of data to support reporting on natural resource condition required under the National NRM Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (NM&EF).

The NM&EF framework identifies three requirements for monitoring natural resource condition:

- ▶ a set of resource condition indicators to measure progress toward the agreed national outcomes on a medium and long term basis
- ▶ a set of indicators for monitoring community and social processes relevant to or affected by NRM programs, as well as measures of the adoption of sustainable development and production techniques, and
- ▶ contextual data pertinent to the indicator being considered.

The Audit's Socio-economic Workplan specifically focuses on the second point above. Further information on activities under the Audit's Socio-economic Workplan can be found at:
<http://www.nlwra.gov.au/topics.asp?section=51>.

The role of the Social and Economic National Coordination Committee

National Coordination Committees have been established for each theme to support the development and consistent use of standards for the

attribution, collection, management and delivery of NRM data and information.

The Social and Economic National Coordination Committee (SENCC) is responsible for advising on the development and implementation of socio-economic indicators. SENCC has representatives from the Australian Government and State jurisdictions and observers from major national socio-economic data providers / research institutions. In August 2006 SENCC recommended a national set of indicators and protocols to assist in assessing the impact of NRM programs on:

1. the capacity of land managers' to change and the adoption of sustainable management practices, which focus on the:
 - ▶ aspirations of landmanagers
 - ▶ capacity of landmanagers
 - ▶ attributes of the NRM practices
 - ▶ external influences on adoption, and
 - ▶ outcomes of the adoption of improved NRM practices.
2. the social and institutional foundations of NRM:
 - ▶ capacity – regional organisations have the capacity to make decisions on regional NRM issues
 - ▶ engagement – a shared NRM vision and ownership at the regional level
 - ▶ partnerships – NRM partnerships between government and regional organisations are underpinned with trust & confidence, and
 - ▶ recognition – Governments & regional organisations recognise the importance of the social foundations of NRM.

A third set of indicators to examine the link between community vitality, viability and health and natural resource condition are currently being scoped.

The SENCC indicators are driven by the premise that the achievement of intermediate term outcomes (eg. capable people, organisations and institutions) are critical to the attainment of longer term biophysical outcomes.

Upcoming NLWRA projects relevant to NRM regions include:

Social & Institutional Foundations of NRM

Objective

To implement the National NRM M&E indicators and protocols relating to the social and institutional foundations of NRM. The project will assess the level of Recognition, Engagement, Capacity and Partnerships underpinning regional NRM delivery arrangements,

Key Deliverables/outputs

- ▶ a national survey of Regional NRM bodies, community groups and Government representatives
- ▶ a communication strategy to assist with pre and post-implementation of the national survey, and
- ▶ tailored information products which analyse and interpret the results of the national survey in accordance with the needs of national, State and regional decision makers.

Consultant

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Time-line

November 2006 to November 2007

Community Vitality, Viability & Health (VVH)

Objective

To develop an evidence based conceptual model of the relationship between changing resource condition and community VVH, and to identify future partnership options to advance reporting on community VVH.

Key Deliverables/outputs

- ▶ an evidence based conceptual model clarifying concepts and terminology on the relationship between VVH and NRM program outcomes
- ▶ a prospectus for future co-investment in indicator trials, data collection & reporting on community VVH.

Consultant

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Time-line

September 2006 to June 2007

Data Trawl

Objective

To identify and assess major state & regional data sets relevant to the SENCC indicators. This will include an assessment of data sources: availability, accessibility and quality.

Key Deliverables/outputs

- ▶ report on state and regional data sources relevant to the SENCC indicators
- ▶ communication products to assist with pre and post-implementation of the trawl, and
- ▶ report on regional / state data gaps.

Consultant

To be advised.

Time-line

June 2007 to January 2008

SENCC Jurisdictional workshops

Under the auspices of the Social and Economic National Coordination Committee (SENCC) the Audit is conducting a series of workshops to consult with State agencies and Regional NRM Bodies with an interest in social and economic information for NRM.

The purpose of these workshops is to:

- ▶ provide an overview of the NLWRA's current socio-economic work
- ▶ obtain an overview of State & regional activities
- ▶ identify opportunities for collaboration, and
- ▶ obtain advice on the implementation of upcoming NLWRA projects.

For further information go to:

www.nlwra.gov.au

or contact:

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