



# Land & Water

A U S T R A L I A

research • development • innovation

## Social and Institutional Research Program

In 1999, Land & Water Australia established a program of R&D investment that specifically focused on the social, economic, legal, commercial, policy and institutional dimensions of natural resource management.

The Social and Institutional Research Program (SIRP) seeks the continuous improvement in natural resource management through enhanced knowledge of:

- how people value and perceive natural resources
- how they learn about and understand natural resource management
- how people live in and manage natural resources
- how institutions and governance influence natural resource management

SIRP now has a portfolio of some 40 research projects and has established a strong social and institutional knowledge base. Much of the initial SIRP research dealt with integrated catchment management through case study and action research in catchments. Many catchments are now applying this knowledge in planning processes and evaluation; adoption of R&D; adaptive management processes; methodologies for understanding social values, customs and organisations in catchment communities; forms of community participation; and knowledge management through information systems, models and decision support tools.

SIRP emphasises the integration of the outputs of SIRP projects with other relevant knowledge so that it is useful to target audiences in dealing with natural resource management issues and problems. Widespread communication, particularly to policy and advisory groups is very important. During 2002, a series of short briefing documents outlining the results of the research will be distributed to target audiences, followed up with demand-driven seminars and briefings on the outputs of SIRP research.

## SIRP Products

From January 2002, SIRP information products will be available both online <[www.lwa.gov.au](http://www.lwa.gov.au)> and print on demand:

- A booklet 'Natural Resource Management - People and Policies', bringing together the results of the following 11 SIRP research projects
- Community Participation in Australian Natural Resource Management
- 'It Can't Work Without People' - Effective Relationships in Natural Resource Management
- Evaluating Natural Resource Management Policies and Programs
- Interdisciplinary Research in Natural Resource Management
- Participation in Natural Resource Management Research and Development
- Evaluating Integrated Catchment Management
- Using Citizens' Juries for Making Decisions in Natural Resource Management
- Social and Institutional Knowledge in Natural Resource Management
- Using Environmental Law for Effective Regulation
- Supporting Decisions: Understanding Natural Resource Management Assessment Techniques
- The Potential for Private Sector Nature Conservation in Australia



## Other SIRP Projects:

- Analysis of farm decision making and resource use under new corporate structures and contractual arrangements
- Integration of research and development in catchment management
- Analysis of Australian experiences with processes and institutional arrangements for resource and environmental management
- Catchment information systems
- Integrated catchment management software package
- Lessons for Australia of international sustainable development institutions
- Drivers and constraints to adoption by producers of sustainable NRM practices
- Transferability of successful NRM institutions
- Options for reform of Australian natural resource property rights, land tenure and land management institutions
- Social and institutional implications of landscape and land use change
- Decision points for land and water futures
- An Insight Model for exploring land and water policy alternatives
- Assessment of ecosystem goods and services in the Goulburn-Broken catchment
- Governance of natural resources across regional landscapes
- Creation of a common property resource management institution
- Integrating cross-jurisdictional planning for sustainable regions
- Integrating water policy reforms and rural adjustment
- The effectiveness of integration of water and land use planning
- Coordination of stakeholders and interdisciplinary teams in natural resource science
- Producer initiated and managed R&D
- Reflections on integration of social science into seven NRM organisations 1980–2000
- Burnout in the Australian Landcare Movement

## SIRP Contacts

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