



SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

PROJECT 2

WHAT

The Social Research project will support the Victorian and Tasmanian retrospective studies (Projects 3 and 4). It will provide socio-economic and historical information for their case study areas so that the social factors influencing the success or otherwise of management interventions undertaken to improve resource condition can be better understood. In addition, the project will undertake collaborative research with the 6 regional partners in Victoria and Tasmania to increase their capacity to address social issues in natural resource management. An important aspect of the research is to investigate the drivers of successful resource management activities that lead to positive changes in the condition of natural resources and terrestrial, estuarine and in-shore marine environments. These drivers are important to understand within regional communities to assist capacity building.



HOW

The project will conduct interviews and surveys of landholders to provide the social and historical background to past environmental management efforts to improve the condition of native vegetation in Victoria and water quality in Tasmania focussing on the case study areas of Project 3 and Project 4. The Social Science Research project will examine the effectiveness of incentives, motivational strategies and policy instruments (such as Market Based Instruments and incentives) that are used to encourage land management change, including the social assumptions underpinning the various policy instruments.

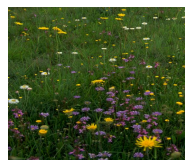
Emphasis may be given to identifying indicators of change in social conditions, and to examining connections between social indicators and resource condition.

The research may also examine the extent to which institutional processes and structures impact on community engagement and the ability of regional communities to effectively manage natural resources and support the sustainable use of landscapes.



WHO

The Social Science Research project is led by Professor Allan Curtis of Charles Sturt University and involves postdoctoral research staff and higher degree research students.



BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

The Social Research project provides an integrative basis to better understand the roles of science and human behaviour in resource management and how to enhance regional capacity to ensure that appropriate local management interventions will be undertaken to improve the condition of natural resources at a catchment scale.

