

**CIRM Social Dimensions of Natural Resource  
Management Working Group**

Monograph Series

**Regional Natural Resource Management  
Planning: the challenges of evaluation as seen  
through different lenses**

Papers from An Occasional Symposium held 15 October 2004 by  
CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, a partner in the CIRM Social  
Dimensions of Natural Resource Management Working Group

Edited by Jennifer Bellamy

June 2005



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[www.cse.csiro.au](http://www.cse.csiro.au) and [www.regionalnrm.qld.gov.au/planning/state\\_wide/nap/se03.html](http://www.regionalnrm.qld.gov.au/planning/state_wide/nap/se03.html)

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## CIRM Social Dimensions Working Group

The Social Dimensions of Natural Resource Management Working Group is the first of several working groups established through the Consortium for Integrated Resource Management (CIRM). CIRM operates as a formal linkage mechanism through a network of key officers from its eight partner organizations - four Universities (University of Queensland, Griffith University, Central Queensland University, James Cook University), CSIRO and three government departments (Natural Resources and Mines, Primary Industries and Fisheries and Environment Protection Agency). It has evolved as a mechanism for facilitating the planning and coordination of collaborative research initiatives.

CIRM identifies priority research areas in natural resource management (NRM) with the Social and Community Dimensions of NRM as the first area for which a cross agency/institution working group developed a position paper. The CIRM Board endorsed funding to establish the working group to implement priorities and to enable the networking that is an important resource for continuing work in this area. The group contains representatives of the CIRM partner organizations and they are: -

Professors Geoff Lawrence and Helen Ross for University of Queensland  
Professor Roy Rickson for Griffith University  
A/Professor Stewart Lockie for Central Queensland University  
Derek Foster for Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries  
Jenny Bellamy for CSIRO  
Jim Binney for Department of Natural Resources and Mines (Chair)  
Lyn Aitken Department of Natural Resources and Mines (executive officer for the group)  
The Environmental Protection Agency is not currently represented

The position paper identified a framework of research topics, as six clusters of research areas: -

- 1) Understanding communities as a basis for achieving sustainable natural resource management
- 2) Structuring and supporting partnerships for natural resource management
- 3) Institutional arrangements for natural resource management
- 4) Supporting community and institutional capacity for natural resource management
- 5) Addressing the social impacts of resource use and change
- 6) Awareness and action to facilitate social change.<sup>1</sup>

The priorities framework is disseminated in a number of ways. A publication that compiles research that spans those cluster areas is the *Social Innovations of NRM: A Handbook of social research in natural resource management*<sup>2</sup>

The framework of priorities is also a basis for the group to hold symposia as one of the networking activities of the group and as a means of promoting current and future research effort in the social dimensions of natural resource management.

Each of the partners takes primary responsibility for holding a symposium in a chosen area of interest. The first symposia was held by the University of Queensland around the theme of the first cluster "Understanding Communities as a basis for achieving sustainable natural resource management" with the second symposia "Innovations in Indigenous Engagement" held by Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries under the second cluster of priority research topics in the group's framework.

This symposium hosted by CSIRO is the third in the series. It addresses topic areas under the fourth cluster, "Supporting community and institutional capacity for natural resource management" and will be the first to be published in this CIRM Social Dimensions of Natural Resource Management Monograph Series.

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<sup>1</sup> L. Aitken (2001) *Social and Community Dimensions of Natural Resource Management*. CIRM Occasional Paper. State of Queensland (Department of Natural Resources and Mines, ISSN: 1445-9280) also available in pdf on [www.cirm.org.au](http://www.cirm.org.au)

<sup>2</sup> Richards, C and Aitken, L (eds.) (2004) *Social Innovations in Natural Resource Management: A Handbook of Social Research in Natural Resource Management in Queensland*, State of Queensland (Department of Natural Resources and Mines, ISBN: 1 920920 83 8) also available on [www.cirm.org.au](http://www.cirm.org.au) and [www.regionalnrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.regionalnrm.qld.gov.au)