

Surveying landholders NRM practices, attitudes and aspirations in the Wet Tropics landscapes



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Project Overview



- Issue
 - Need to find ways to understand and describe rural landholders NRM attitudes and practices
- Research aims and objectives
 - Produce a comprehensive set of profiles (typology) of landholders in relation to NRM practices on private land in the Wet Tropics region that will facilitate effective design and delivery of NRM and rural development programs by public agencies

Project Overview Cont'd

- Theoretical foundation
 - Livelihood theory (Ellis 2000) used to provide over arching framework
 - Theories of Innovation Adoption – used to guide assessment of landholders attitudes toward NRM practices
 - Theories of Social Capital and Adult Learning



Key People

- Research Team
 - Leaders John Herbohn and Nick Emtage
 - Krishna Shestna, David Pullar, Jerry Vanclay, Steve Harrison
 - FNQ NRM Inc.
- Stakeholder groups /end users
 - FNQ NRM Inc.
 - DEH, WTMA, DOTARS,
 - DPI, DNRW, EPA, OUM, DoCS
 - OESR, PIFU, DLGPSR
 - Local councils



Methodology

- Review existing data collection efforts
- Establish partnerships with other interested stakeholders
- Generate information about generic NRM practices and landholders characteristics
- Develop landholder profiles
- Work with local agencies to generate data about industry specific NRM BMPs and profiles

Methodology

- The topics in a questionnaire include landholders:
 - perceptions of NRM issues on their properties and within their catchment/sub-region/region and their importance;
 - current NRM/EMS practices;
 - current land management and enterprise characteristics;
 - perceptions of the currently recommended BMP's;
 - Levels of capital (human, social, financial, physical and natural); and
 - management aspirations and land management values.

Project Timeframes

- Finalise research framework and partnerships
 - Until June 2007
- Carry-out survey
 - July to September 2007
- Develop analyses and reporting
 - November 2007 to May 2008
- Work with public agencies and industry groups to implement findings
 - June 2008 onward



Key Research Outcomes

- Baseline data about landholders adoption of BMPs in the region in relation to generic vegetation and water management activities
- Improved understanding of landholders attitudes, capacities and learning and communication behaviour
- Integrated profiles that bring together information about land managers capital endowments, aspirations and communication behaviour to support policy and program development, delivery and evaluation