

A Survey of Rural Landholders in the Tasmanian Midlands

August and September 2013

Dr Chris Raymond is coordinating a survey of rural landholders in the Tasmanian Midlands in August and September 2013, as part of the Landscapes and Policy Research Hub*. The survey aims to assess the capacity of landholders to carry out biodiversity conservation in the face of climate change. The survey runs until the end of September and the results will be used to improve the design and implementation of conservation programs.

1. Why are we doing a survey?

The survey is designed to collect information about landholders' activities and attitudes to biodiversity conservation. Research outcomes will be delivered to decision-makers and stakeholders to improve regional biodiversity conservation, planning and policy options.

2. What are we doing?

In July 2013, a paper based survey was mailed to almost 700 landholders in the Tasmanian Midlands.

The survey was designed with the help of a focus group of Tasmanian landholders. The survey asks a series of questions about biodiversity conservation activities undertaken on the ground by landholders. The survey explores what motivates landholders to conserve biodiversity and what drives their business activities and choices in land management.

Survey collection ends in October 2013 and the analysis will be completed by early 2014.

The survey is voluntary. All information provided is confidential and names or any identifying data will not be used in any publication.

3. What are the survey aims?

The information collected in the survey will help:

- a) To assess landholders' capacity to manage native vegetation in response to environmental and economic drivers of change.
- b) To identify landholders' preferences for the types and design of conservation programs.
- c) To identify factors that influence landholders' management decisions that impact on the condition and extent of native vegetation.

4. Who are we?

The team doing the study comprises Dr Michael Lockwood and Dr Chris Raymond from the University of Tasmania, and Professor Mark Morrison from Charles Sturt University. They have carried out similar surveys in other parts of Australia

The survey is part of a larger, collaborative research program based at the University of Tasmania: the Landscapes and Policy Research Hub* led by Professor Ted Lefroy. The hub research is focused on including biodiversity conservation into regional planning, looking at two contrasting study regions: the Tasmanian Midlands and the Australian Alps.

* The Landscapes & Policy Research Hub is supported through funding from the Australian Government's [National Environmental Research Program](#) and involves researchers from the University of Tasmania (UTAS), The Australian National University (ANU), Murdoch University, the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC), Griffith University and Charles Sturt University (CSU).

5. *How is this survey related to other research activities conducted in the area?*

The Social and Institutional Futures Team has two other major studies in the Tasmanian Midlands:

Scenario workshops are building a picture of what makes the Tasmanian Midlands work from both a social and ecological perspective. In a group setting, this includes asking people to discuss what they believe are the key drivers of biodiversity conservation, including land use decisions, government programs and incentives, landholder attitudes and behaviour, water availability and prevailing market forces, and how they relate to one another. The workshops explore how these drivers could change in the future and how we might deal with these changes. These workshops are organised and led by Dr Michael Lockwood and Dr Michael Mitchell.

In March 2013, Ms Sarah Clement conducted one-on-one interviews with more than 30 people who work or live in the Tasmanian Midlands. The interviews focused on the institutional aspects of biodiversity conservation to uncover the rules, norms, practices and procedures, both formal and informal, that affect the choices people and organisations make in regard to biodiversity conservation activities.

6. *I would like to know more?*

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the survey, please contact the research team toll free on 1800 605 187, or contact any of the following people from the Landscapes and Policy Research Hub.

Participants receive an executive summary of the analysis, and the final report will be publicly available on the research group's website: www.nerlandscapes.edu.au.

If you are interested in the general findings from the Landscapes and Policy Research Hub, we would be pleased to share these with you. Please contact us if you would like to receive any reports or papers published from our research.

Contact the Research Team	1800 605 187
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