Social Values of Forests
Eden CRA Region

A report undertaken for the NSW CRA/RFA Steering Committee

April 1998

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EDEN CRA REGION

SOCIAL ASSESSMENT UNIT, DPIE

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project number NE 02/ES

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Report Status
This report has been prepared as a working paper for the NSW CRA/RFA Steering Committee under the direction of the Economic and Social Technical Committee. It is recognised that it may contain errors that require correction but it is released to be consistent with the principle that information related to the comprehensive regional assessment process in New South Wales will be made publicly available.

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This project has been jointly funded by the New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments. The work undertaken within this project has been managed by the joint NSW / Commonwealth CRA/RFA Steering Committee which includes representatives from the NSW and Commonwealth Governments and stakeholder groups.

The project has been overseen and the methodology has been developed through the Economic and Social Technical Committee which includes representatives from the NSW and Commonwealth Governments and stakeholder groups.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared for the joint Commonwealth/State Steering Committee which oversees the comprehensive regional assessments of forests in New South Wales.

The comprehensive regional assessments (CRAs) provide the scientific basis on which the State and Commonwealth governments will sign regional forest agreements (RFAs) for the major forests of New South Wales. These agreements will determine the future of the State's forests, providing a balance between conservation and ecologically sustainable use of forest resources.

The objectives of this project were to:

document the main issues of concern of stakeholders in the RFA process regarding social values of forests.

conduct a random telephone survey which addresses social values in regard to forested land use

select a diverse range of communities within each forest region and construct comprehensive baseline profiles of the social conditions within these case study areas.

identify and survey forest-related industry groups for the purpose of:

linking community dependence to areas of forested land and the social values of forests held by these groups,

establishing the impact felt to date by these groups from changes in forested land decisions,

identify the social use values of forests held by these groups.

A number of different methods were employed at a regional and a local level to achieve these objectives. These included:

Networking and participant observation

A random community attitude telephone survey

Community Workshops

Focus Groups

Cross-sectional surveys of industry groups such as forest and timber workers, logging and transport contractors, firewood collectors, seed collectors, wildflower pickers, craftwood collectors, apiarists, furniture makers, graziers, raw material extractors, tourist operators and state agency employees.

The key results of this assessment are presented in the following pages. The results include:

a report on wider community attitudes in regard to forest issues based on a random telephone survey of the Eden CRA region.

an analysis of written survey results of timber industry workers, forest management workers, tourism operators and other forest users in regard to occupational profiles of those groups.

detailed profiles of case study areas including economic and social vitality, historical response to change, infrastructure, community vision, qualitative data on attitudes towards changes in forest use and management collected through community workshops, networking and participant observation and focus groups.

1. PROFILE OF OCCUPATIONAL COMMUNITIES

1.1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this project were to survey forest-related industry groups for the purposes of;

- linking community dependence to areas of forested land and the social values of forests held by these groups,
- establishing the impact felt to date by these groups from changes in forested land decisions,
- identify the social use values of forests held by these groups.

The surveys developed for each occupational community addressed four main content areas;

- demographic characteristics (age, gender, marital status, education, number of children, home ownership)
- business/employment characteristics (nature of employment, years worked in the industry experience in other industries, age and structure of workforce, educational/skill level)
- community characteristics (length of residence, attachment to community, local expenditure, use of community services)
- attitudes towards the forest debate and perceived social impacts on businesses, individuals, families and communities.

1.2 OCCUPATIONAL COMMUNITIES

Occupational communities have been classified into the following groups; contractors (including harvesting and hauling contractors), employees of contractors, employees of mills, workers in forest management agencies, tourist operators and other forest users. The economic studies carried out by ABARE provide a profile of the industry groups and structure in the Eden region (see ABARE project X).

Profiles of occupational groups have been developed based on their response to survey questions. In the Eden region, because of the relatively small population of people employed directly in the forest industry , a census approach was taken. Contractors surveys were presented to the harvest contractors at a regional contractors meeting and forms were returned post paid. The surveys for bush crews and mill workers were administered on a one-to-one basis where possible, with respondents verbally asked the survey questions which were recorded by collectors. In the ‘other forest users’ group and tourist operators, survey forms were generally distributed by mail using industry organistions databases and/or State Forests permit lists. These were sent with a covering letter from the peak industry group where possible and provided for reply paid post. Other forest users includes fencing and firewood, apiarists, seed collectors, those with grazing or mineral extraction permits, and those with research and recreational hunting permits. Mobile mill owners and small mills currently gaining access to timber only on private land were also surveyed. Forest management agencies were given surveys to administer to their employees. The following table outlines the response rate for different groups.

Occupational Groups	No. In Industry [a]	Respond-ents (%)
Harvesting Contractors	14	100%
Hauling Contractors	10	100%
Employees of Contractors	102	72%
Mill workers	114	81%
Forest Management Agencies [b]	78	50%
Tourist Operators	64	19%
Other Forest Users	15 [c]	66%

a Source: SAU Survey Data, ABARE 1997, Industry Data 1997
b SF District Office, NPWS Merimbula Office.
c Number of surveys carried out.

The profiles of each occupational community detailed below, are based on the sample data collected from each group.

1.3 HARVESTING AND HAULING CONTRACTORS

There are 12 full time harvesting contractor companies (operating 16 crews) and 10 hauling contractors in the Eden RFA area (SAU Survey Data, 1997). In addition to hauling contractors, there are 21 people employed by contractors as truck drivers. Of all contractors (other than hauling contractors), 57% reside in Eden and 29% in Bombala. Thirty percent of hauling contractors live in Eden, and 30% live in Bombala. The remaining contractors live in smaller towns throughout the region. Contractors provide employment for one third of all those employed in the native forest industry in the Eden region, which includes mill workers and forest management agencies.

1.3.1 Demography

Contractors are male, mainly aged between 35 to 49 years old (64%). Only 12% are less than 35 years old. Family connections to the region are strong, and the large majority of contractors have strong familial networks within the timber industry. Of the contractors living in Bombala, over 80% of them have lived in the town for more than 25 years. Similarly for Eden, over one half of the contractors have lived there for more than 25 years. Over 90% of both harvesting and hauling contractors own their own house or are paying off a mortgage.

1.3.2 Length of Business/Employment

Sixty five percent of contractors have worked in the timber industry for more than twenty years.

Approximately one third of contractor businesses holding contracts with HDA have annual operating costs of less than $500,000 and 65% have annual operating costs of greater than $750,000. Half of the same contractors’ gross business income for the last financial year was greater than $1.25 million and over 43% of businesses owed more than $500,000.

1.3.3 Community

Thirty eight per cent of contractors have dependent school age children who attend local schools. Of those children, approximately 20% attend school in Bombala and 40% attend school in Eden, with the remainder children enrolled in smaller schools throughout the area.

1.3.4 Attitudes

As part of survey data collection, harvesting contractors were asked what impact government forest decisions had on them personally, on their business, their family, and the local community.

1.3.5 Personal Impacts

Personal experience of uncertainty and stress were reported by all respondents linked strongly to the insecurity of future employment. Frustration, anger and despair relating to a lack of control over their future was also a strong theme. In particular, the stress at Christmas regarding HDA's 'draws from the hat' which determine whether their business will survive was reported as particularly stressful.

1.3.6 Business Impacts

Uncertainty of the future of the industry had prevented many respondents from upgrading or replacing equipment, which in many cases would have been safer and more 'environmentally friendly'. Many respondents said they could not plan for their businesses' future as investment was increasingly risky. Most reported stress at having to retrench employees because of lack of work, and employees lack of interest in the industry because of uncertainty.

1.3.7 Family Impacts

The increased stress on children was widely reported. Examples reported were impacts on their education, their future employment prospects, and their increased responsibility in many family situations. The inability to plan holidays or spend money was also seen to impact most on contractors families.

1.3.8 Community Impacts

"The local community is tired: - tired of fighting for the right to work, tired of trying to make ends meet and tired of listening to politicians debating on issues some of them know nothing about - and they won't come and see for themselves."
"What are school leavers going to do ?"

Uncertainty and depression were widely reported as common community characteristics. The effect on morale of friends moving away and local voluntary organisations was also reported. Concern for local businesses was a common theme, with reports of businesses "struggling to survive".

All respondents strongly agreed, or agreed, with the positive survey statements relating to their feelings about the community regarding networks of friendships, loyalty and sense of community.

1.3.9 Solutions for Education and Consultation on Forestry Issues

When asked how education and consultation on forestry issues should be carried out, respondents strongly recommended; better promotion of current forest management, availability of unbiased information on the timber industry, and an increased awareness of the amount of National Parks to those of timber production areas.

Education through schools was repeatedly reported by respondents as well as the media, although many were sceptical of the media's objectiveness through their experience to date.

1.4 EMPLOYEES OF CONTRACTORS

Two thirds of bush crew employees live in Eden and Bombala with the remaining residing in smaller towns throughout the region. Over half of the truck drivers live in Eden and approximately 20% live in

Bombala. Additional employees surveyed, including administrators and workshop support staff who mostly live in Eden.

Approximately half of the workers in a bush crew earn between $40,000 and $60,000 per annum and about one third earn between $25,000 and $40,000. Of the income earnt by workers in a bush crew, over 75% is on a piece work rate basis. Over 70% of truck drivers earn between $25,000 and $40,000 per annum with over 90% on a wage or salary basis. Of all the employees of contractors, 89% are employed on a full-time basis.

Of the bush crew workers surveyed, only 7% had attained educational qualification of Year 12 or higher, with 62% having attained Year 10. One quarter of the workers had not attained qualifications beyond primary school, and one third had never worked in any other industry. The most highly qualified workers in the native forest industry ie those holding a degree or diploma (including management agencies) are employed in the pulp wood mill (13% of employees) and NPWS (50 % of employees).

1.5 MILLS

There are three mills (2 sawmills and one chip mill) who use native public forest resource from the Eden Forest Management Area. Employees at each mill mainly reside in the mill towns. Seventy five percent of chip mill workers live in Eden, 83% of saw mill workers live in Bombala and the remaining workers are scattered in smaller towns throughout the area.

Just under 50% of sawmill workers have never worked in any other industry.

1.5.1 Demography

Mill workers are predominantly male. Most workers have dependent school age children who attend local schools. Family connections to the region are strong, and the large majority of workers have strong familial networks within the industry.

1.5.2 Business/Employment

The majority of sawmill workers have worked in the industry on avewrage for 9 years, nearly 30% have worked in their current employment for 15 years. Almost eighty per cent of sawmill workers and earn between $12,000 and $25,000 per annum. The majority of chip mill workers earn between $25,000 to $40,000 per annum, with a further 15% earning over $60,000.

1.5.3 Community

Chipmill workers had lived in the area for an average of 20 years, 37% have their partner’s family living in the area. The clean healthy environment, the recreational opportunities and the climate were tha aspects the pulpmill workers liked most about livingf in the area. The lack of employment opportunities and services and facilities were the major dislikes about living in the area.

Sawmill workers have lived in the area for an average of 21 years. 60% have family living in the area, and 30 % have their partner’s family living in the area. The people, proximity to work, and the clean healthy environment were the aspects sawmill workers most liked about living in the area. the lack of employment opportunities were the major dislikes about living in the area.

1.6 FOREST MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

The two forest management agencies in the Eden RFA area are NSW State Forests (SF) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). These two agencies account for approximately 20% of employment in the native forest industry . In the following sample, only those people working in the local office of the region were surveyed. since those surveys were carried out there has been significant restructuring, particularly in the State Forests offices.

1.6.1 Demography

Workers in State Forests are predominantly male, having an average age of 41 years. National Parks workers average age is 37 years. Around 44% of workers have dependent school age children who attend local schools. Both State Forests and NPWS workers reside throughout the area with about 25% of the sample of both agencies living in Eden. Eighteen per cent of both agencies reside in Bombala.

1.6.2 Employment

Two thirds of NPWS workers surveyed earn between $25,000 and $40,000. Twenty five per cent earn more than $40,000 per annum. Of State Forest employees surveyed, over 83% earn between $25,000 and $40,000 with 17% earning more than $40,000. Of all SF and NPWS workers surveyed, 100% are on a wage/salary basis. Forty eight per cent of NPWS staff hold a degree or diploma compared with 6% of SF workers. Over 95% of NPWS staff and 89% of SF workers have worked in other industries.

1.7 OTHER FOREST USERS

Surveys were undertaken of a sample of other forest users of native forests. This occupational group includes small millers, including mobile and salvage millers, seed gatherers, researchers, bee keepers and graziers. The following table summarises the returned survey categories.

No. Of Surveys Returned	Respondents
1	Seed collector dependent on 80% public native forest.
1	Pine forest
3	Research (excl. State Forests employees)
3	Beekeeping
1	Speciality timber
2	Grazing
2	Part-time firewood collectors
12	Mobile and small mills (100% dependent on private forest)

1.7.1 Demography

From the beekeeping surveys, those sampled are predominantly part-time keepers and are mainly dependent on public native forest. Issues raised by those sampled are captured in the following quotes:

"The change over from State Forests to NPWS meant that I could not pass my bee sites onto family or sell bee sites with business."
"Beekeepers have lost between 2000 and 3000 sites to NPWS in the past 20 years. We can't afford to lose any more country to (a) reserve system."

1.7.2 Attitudes

While some small mills and millers are predominantly dependent on private forest, decisions regarding the use of public native forest have an effect on the overall resources available.

"When Tablelands' quota is down, I can't buy any wood from forestry."
"There are two big players in the area......there is enough small mills around for forestry to have an auction each month."
"With the NPWS being given so much forest that no-one can use, not even themselves, it limits where we can access wood."

1.8 TOURIST OPERATORS

Of the 340 tourism surveys distributed through industry organisations in the Bega Valley and Bombala Shires, sixty four responses were received.

Table 1 shows for the Bega Valley Shire, the bed occupancy, employment and comparisons of room occupancy between the South Eastern and NSW state averages. Similar figures for the Bombala Shire are not available due to the small size of the sample and ABS constraints of confidentiality

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TABLE 1: ACCOMMODATION STATISTICS: HOTELS AND MOTELS ETC. WITH FACILITIES, BEGA VALLEY SLA 1996

	No. Of Estab.	Guest Rooms	Bed spaces	Employed persons	Room nights occupied	Rate %	Guest nights	Bed occupancy rate %	Arrivals	Average length of stay-(days)	Takings $'000
M	42	818	2,563	256	38,458	52	77,887	34	44,803	2	2,288
A	Southern Eastern Average					35		20		2	
R	NSW Average					61		38		2	
C											
H											
J	42	818	2,585	240	28,364	38	53,814	23	31,569	2	1,539
U	Southern Eastern Average					33		20		2	
N	NSW Average					57		34		2	
E											
S	42	817	2,578	233	24,264	32	43,700	18	26,390	2	1,213
E	Southern Eastern Average					50		35		2	
P	NSW Average					59		36		2	
T											
D	42	814	2,551	256	35,611	48	68,367	29	40,896	2	1,910
E	Southern Eastern Average					34		19		2	
C	NSW Average					61		37		2	

The following table summarises the main findings from the tourist operators who responded to the surveys.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Age	Age range between 30 and 77 years. Average age of 51 years.
Gender	Approximately 70% male and 30% female.
Marital status	Approximately 73% are married and 75% have spouses who are also employed, mainly in the business or in a professional or an upper white collar capacity.
Number of children living at home	36% have dependent children with an average of 2 living at home.
Family size	Average family size 4.1.
Family networks	36% have family living in the area while 19% have the partner's family living in the area.
Home Ownership	Over 50% own their own home outright while 31% are paying off a mortgage.

BUSINESS CHARACTERISTICS

Type of business	Tourist operators who responded were largely involved in tourist accommodation (just under 60%), followed by outdoor tours and shops & galleries (both 7%) and cafes and restaurants (6%). Forest areas most used and considered important to their business were Ben Boyd National Park (30%), Bournda Nature Reserve and National Park (20%), Mimosa Rocks National Parks (16%) and Nadgee Nature Reserve and State Forest. Other areas mentioned were Tantewagelo, Coolangbura and Mumbulla Falls.
Number of employees	Tourist operators employed an average of 4 people. The number of full-time employees ranged from 1 to 8 with an average of just over 2. The number of part-time employees ranged from 1 to 6 with an average of just under 2, while causal employees ranged from 1 to 7 with an average of just over 3.
Experience in other industries	Almost 90% had worked in other industries. Service industries, manufacturing and agriculture/forestry and fishing were the most common.
Family involvement in the industry	A range of 1 to 6 family members were involved with the business with an average of 2 full timers, 2 part times and 2 casuals.
Main attractions of the area for tourists	Beaches, waterways and the seaside were considered the most popular attractions for tourists to the area, followed by the scenic and natural beauty, sports and recreational facilities, the weather and the National Parks and Forests.
Length of residence in the community	Tourist operators had lived in the area for an average of 13 years.
Attachment to community	The scenic beauty and the clean, healthy environment were the aspects tourist operators liked most about living in the area. Recreational opportunities and the people also rated reasonably highly. The lack of employment opportunities and services and facilities were the major dislikes about living in the area. The isolation and the remoteness were also mentioned.

2. COMMUNITY ATTITUDES TOWARDS FORESTS IN THE EDEN CRA REGION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In recognition of the public nature of the forest resources debate, a random telephone survey was conducted between 17 and 31 July 1997 to enable the wider community in the Eden CRA to present their views on social values of forested land. The survey was carried out by the University of Sydney (Geography Department).

2.2 METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire covered standard demographic variables whilst investigating the economic, environmental and social dimensions of people's opinions about forest use and values. The main constraint on the questionnaire was on the time taken to conduct the survey which was limited to fifteen minutes, and a restriction in the complexity of the questions due to the verbal communication medium.

In the Eden CRA region postcode boundaries were found to be the most accurate method of delineating the region. Whilst there is some overlap with other regions it was not thought that this would alter the results of an attitudinal survey in any significant way. The postcodes delineating the boundaries of the Eden sample were; 2546, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2632 . Three hundred and eighty domestic telephone numbers were randomly selected using an electronic White Pages database from the postcodes comprising the Eden CRA region. Using 1991 Census data this conforms to approximately one call to every 82 people living in the Eden CRA region. Of the 380 phone calls made to the Eden CRA region 97 successful interviews were carried out. If no one was home on the first call, two follow - up calls were made subsequently, and messages left on answering machines if available. If no follow up calls were successful, the call was counted as a rejection. The response rate was just over 25.5%.

2.3 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SAMPLE

2.3.1 Introduction

The demographic section of the questionnaire investigated general characteristics of the group being interviewed and was contrasted with 1991 Census material for the post-code delineated Eden CRA region. This allows judgements to be made about the extent to which the Eden sample represents the Eden CRA region.

2.3.2 Demographic Distribution of Sample Group

TABLE 2 SUMMARISES THE RESULTS OF THE KEY DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS.TABLE 2 SAMPLE PROFILE (N=97)

	Frequency[1]	Percentage[2]		Frequency	Percentage
GENDER*:			CHILDREN:		
Male	45	47.9	Yes	74	76.3
Female	49	52.1	No	23	23.7
AGE GROUPS:			LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME:		
17-24	8	8.2	English	96	100
25-34	18	18.6	Non-English	-	-
35-44	21	21.6			
45-54	14	14.4	ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER IDENTITY:		
55-64	14	14.4	Yes	1	1
65+	22	22.7	No	95	99

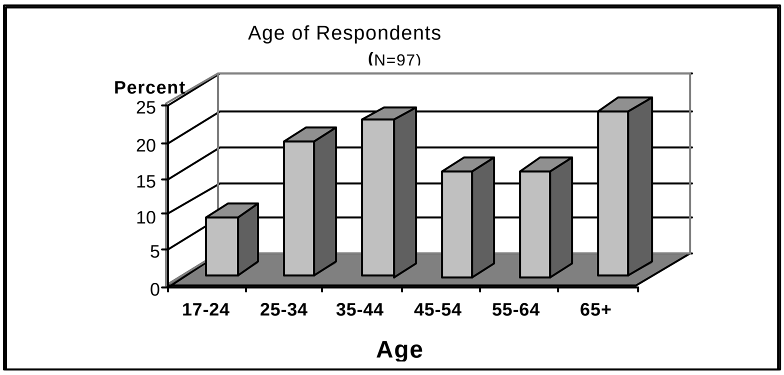
2.3.3 Gender

The percentage of female respondents was slightly higher (52.1%) than the percentage of male respondents (47.9%). Compared to the 1991 census data for the postcodes covered in the Eden CRA region our sample has a slightly higher representation of females than males. In the 1991 Census 50.1% of the Eden region recorded female compared to 49.9% male.

2.3.4 Age of Respondents

The age profile of respondents within the Eden study (refer to Figure 1) adequately represents the Eden population as recorded in the 1991 Census (refer to Table 2). The highest percentage of respondents were from the 65 years and older age bracket (22.7%) and the 35-44 age bracket (21.6%), which reflects the age distributions of the wider Eden population. There does appear to be, however, an over representation of 25-34 year olds in the sample.

Figure 1



1 Frequencies do not necessarily add up to 97 due to incomplete values for some responses.
2 All percentages given in this report are valid percentages.

TABLE 3

Comparison of Age between 1991 Census Data of the Eden Region and Eden CRA sample[3]		
	1991 Census	*Eden CRA Sample (N=97)*
17-24	7.50	8.2
25-34	6.74	18.6
35-44	14.71	21.6
45-54	10.06	14.4
55-64	11.49	14.4
+65	17.15	22.7

2.3.5 Parents

Of the respondents surveyed, 76.3 percent of the sample were parents. This variable could potentially affect people's opinions on subjects involving intergenerational equity.

2.3.6 Language Spoken at Home

Of the sample all of the respondents reported to speak English in the home, compared with a Non-English speaking population of 2.74 percent in the 1991 Census.

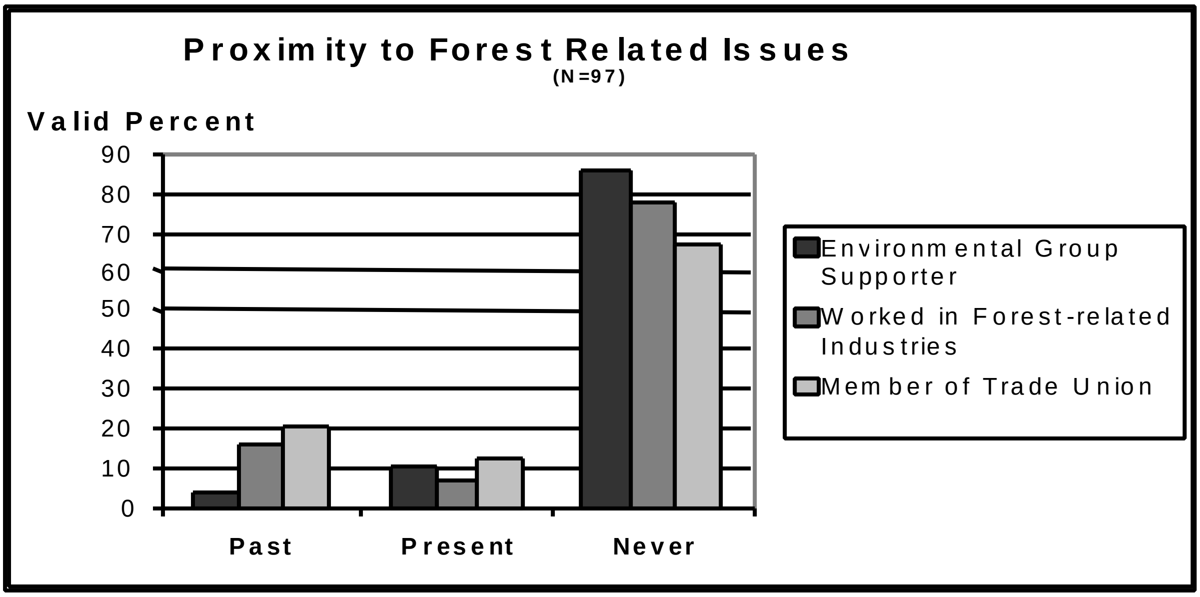
2.3.7 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Status

The sample of the Eden population revealed a low percentage of people identifying themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The level recorded was 1 percent, which reflects the 1991 Census level of 1.72 percent in the Eden region.

2.3.8 Proximity to Forest Issues

Figure 2 indicates the sample's responses to three key questions gauging their proximity and awareness of key issues relating to forests, such as: their concern for, and awareness of, environmental/conservation issues represented by their membership of or subscription to environmental/conservation groups; their awareness of forest related industries represented by their employment in forest related industries; and their concern for, and awareness of, labour related issues represented by their membership of a trade union.

Figure 2



The data presented in Figure 2 indicates 85.4 percent of respondents have never been

3Census data includes whole Eden CRA population, whilst report data represent only those over 16 years of age.

members or subscribers to environmental or conservation groups, with 14.6 percent of people reporting that they have been (4.2%) or are presently (10.4%) members or subscribers to environmental or conservation groups.

Seventy seven percent of people reported they have never been employed in forest related industries, with 22.7 percent of people in the Eden CRA region reporting that they had been (15.5%) or are presently (7.2%) employed in forest related industries. No specification was supplied about the term 'forest related industries' with positive respondents potentially being employed in the economic, social or conservation sides of these industries.

Sixty seven percent of respondents reported that they have never been a member of a trade union. A third of all respondents (33.3 percent) have been (20.8%) or are presently (12.5%) members of a trade union.

2.4 EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

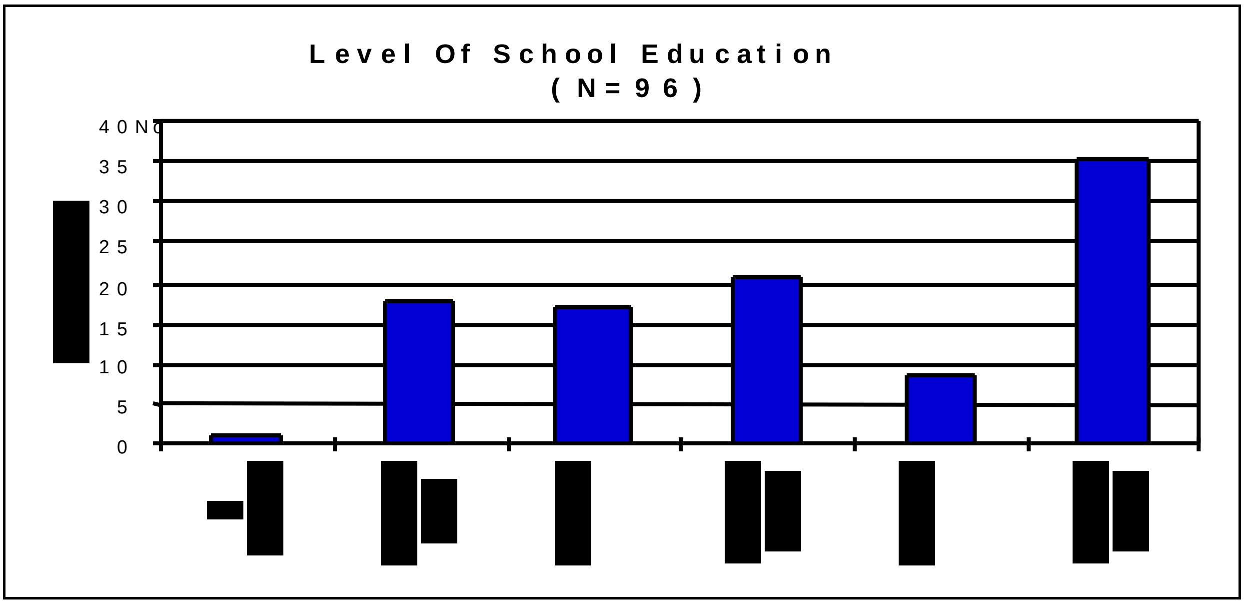
2.4.1 Introduction

Respondents were asked about the level of education they attained, their income level, and their occupation. The level of education was compared to 1991 Census data.

2.4.2 Level of Schooling

Figure 3 indicates the responses to a question regarding the highest level of schooling attained by each respondent. Close to 64.5 percent of respondents had either attained the Year 10 school certificate (or equivalent) or higher, with the remainder of the respondents achieving lower levels of schooling.

Figure 3

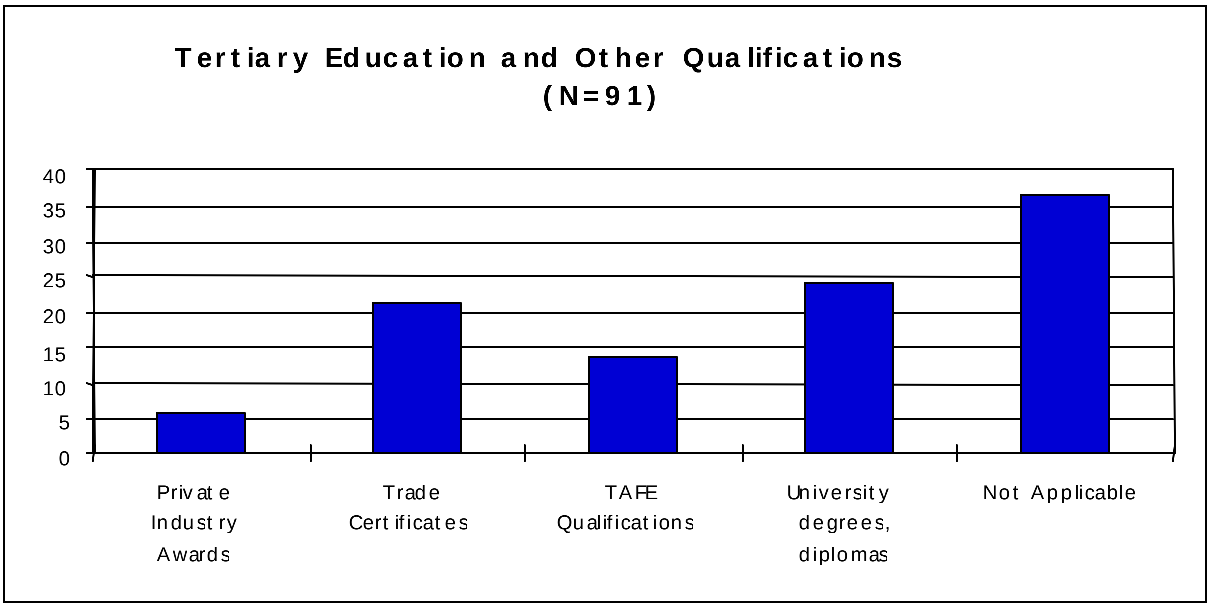


2.4.3 Tertiary Education and Other Qualifications

Respondents were asked about other tertiary, trade and industry qualifications they had attained. Figure 4 shows the responses, indicating 36.3% of all respondents had not attained any formal qualifications other than schooling. This is substantially lower than 1991 Census figures for the same region that indicated 61.42% of the population had no formal qualifications after schooling. Census data also revealed that only 10.2% of the Eden population had University qualifications whereas in the sample group 24.2% had University degrees or diplomas. This indicates that our sample is biased towards the more educated segments of the community with a disproportionate amount of less educated people declining to be interviewed.

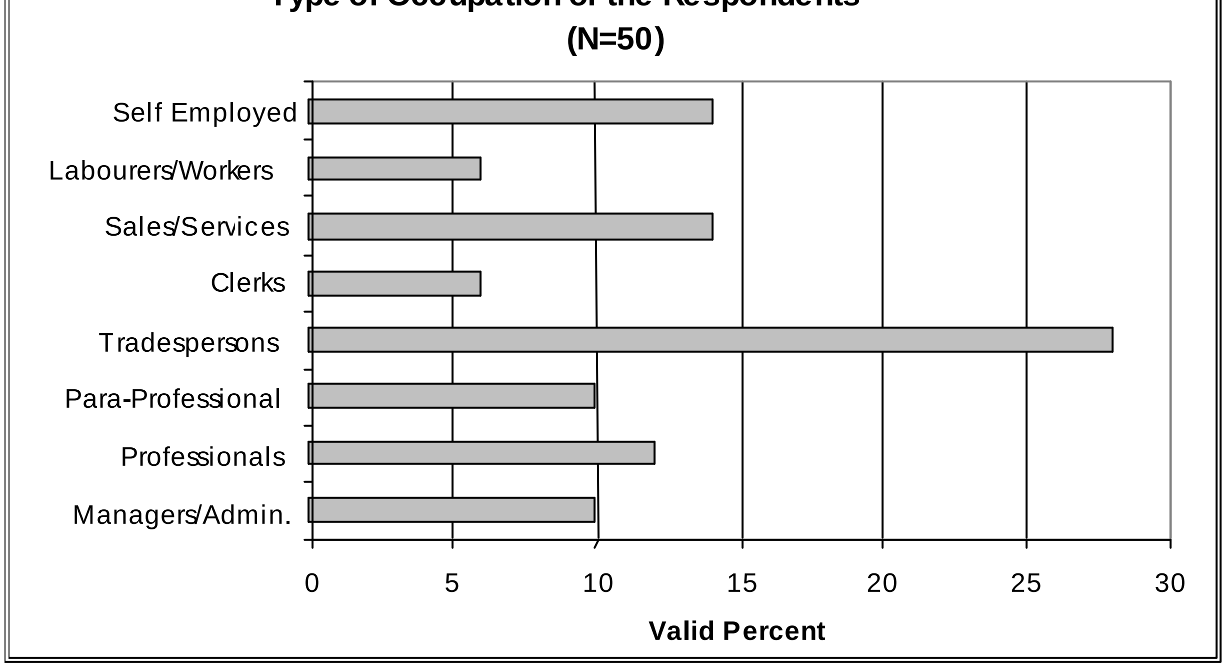
The debate about the effect of educational levels upon people's environmental attitudes has led to little consensus amongst researchers (see for example Papadakis 1993, Cotgrove and Duff 1981). However it is possible that those who are highly educated, (who are disproportionately represented in this survey) may show more concern for environmental issues than the general public.

Figure 4



participated in the survey (45.8%) were not currently employed. However, of this figure close to half of the respondents were 65 years or over (19 of the actual 44 respondents who reported being unemployed were 65 years or over). The census data for the Eden region indicates that approximately 45% of the population is not in the labour force.

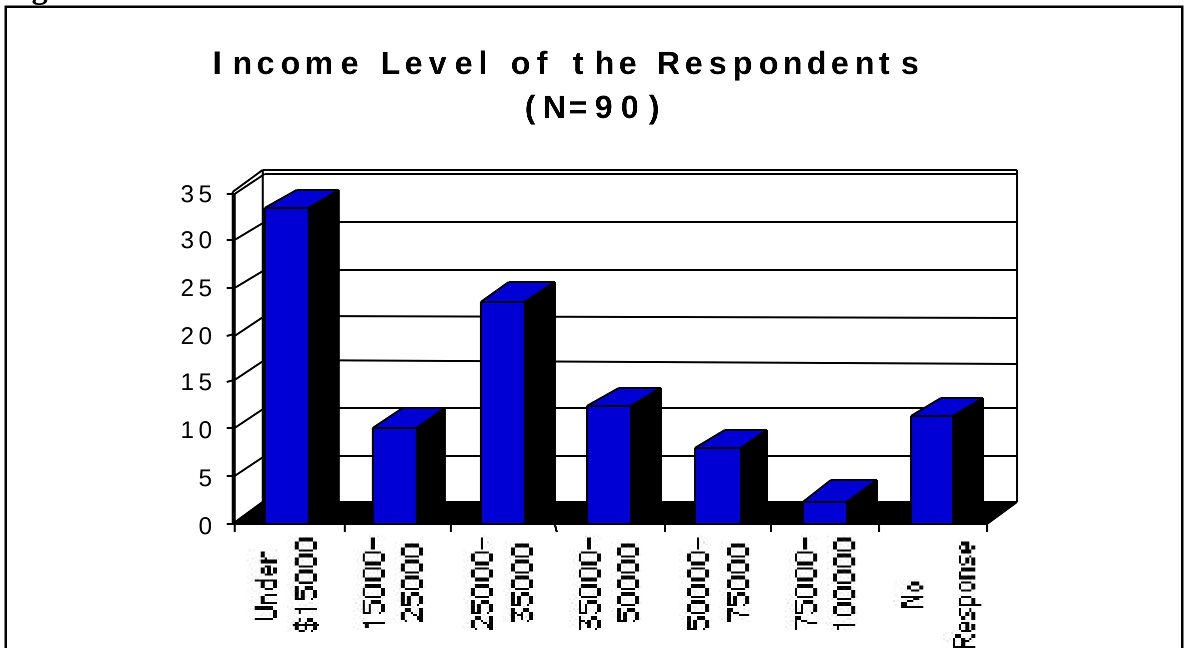
Figure 5 shows the distribution of employed people according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics occupation categories[4.] A high percentage of people surveyed (28%) fall into the occupation category of 'tradesperson', which is significantly higher than the 1991 NSW average of 13.4 percent. Only six percent of people identified themselves as clerks, significantly lower than the NSW average of 15.8% and only six percent of respondents identified themselves as labourers or machine operators, lower than the NSW average of 19.1 percent.



2.4.5 Income

We can see from Figure 6 that a large percentage of respondents can be classified as medium to low income earners. Two thirds of the respondents earned $35 000 or less, with a third of respondents reporting to earn $15 000 or less. This situation reflects the high percentage of people who are not in the labour force.

Figure 6



2.5.1 Introduction

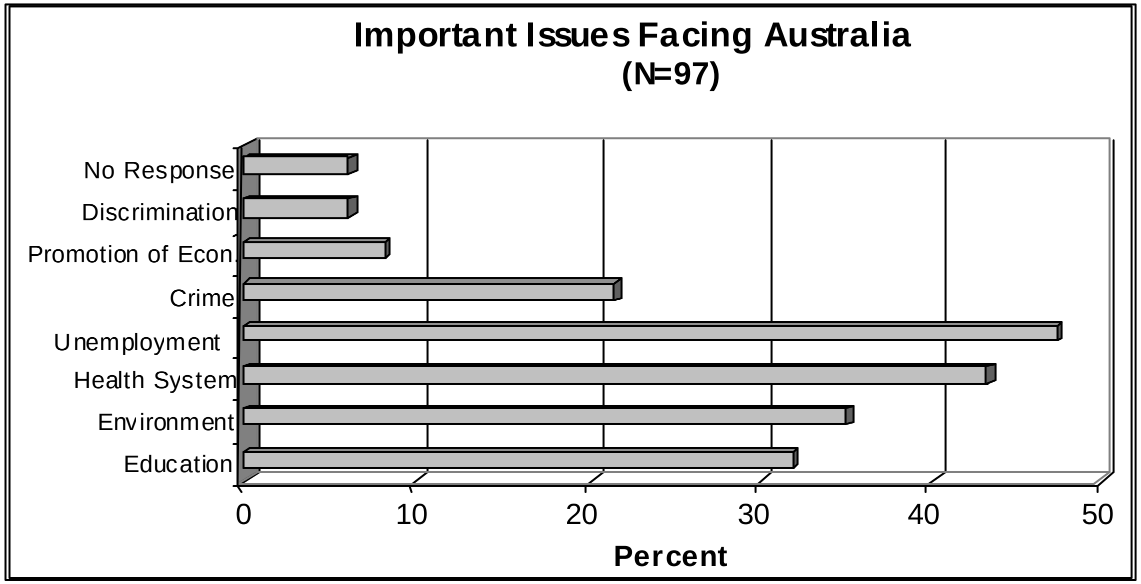
In order to investigate how people think about general environmental issues four questions were asked investigating the extent and structure of their concern. The first question asked people to rank the importance of environmental issues when compared with other broad social and economic issues at an abstract level. The second question investigated the strength of people's concern for environmental issues as a whole, whilst the third question investigated the structure of people's concern for the environment. The last question looked at the strength and commitment people have for environmental issues by seeing how concern has been translated into behaviour.

2.5.2 Contemporary Social Issues

A list of seven contemporary social issues were read out to participants in the survey and they were asked to indicate which two issues they felt environment, the health system, unemployment, crime, promotion of economic growth, and discrimination.

'Unemployment' (47.4%) and the 'health system' (43.3%) were the two most important issues for respondents from the Eden CRA region. The environment was identified as the next important issue (35.1%). When compared to a recent face to face survey commissioned by the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority (EPA 1994) which asked a similar question for the whole of NSW some differences become apparent. The EPA study found unemployment (50.4%) and education (30.9%) as the two most frequently mentioned responses followed by the health system (29%), crime (23.9%) and the environment (22.8%). The results of the Eden CRA region show that people value the health system and the environment particularly highly when compared to the EPA study.

Figure 7



high degree of concern and interest within the

Table 3

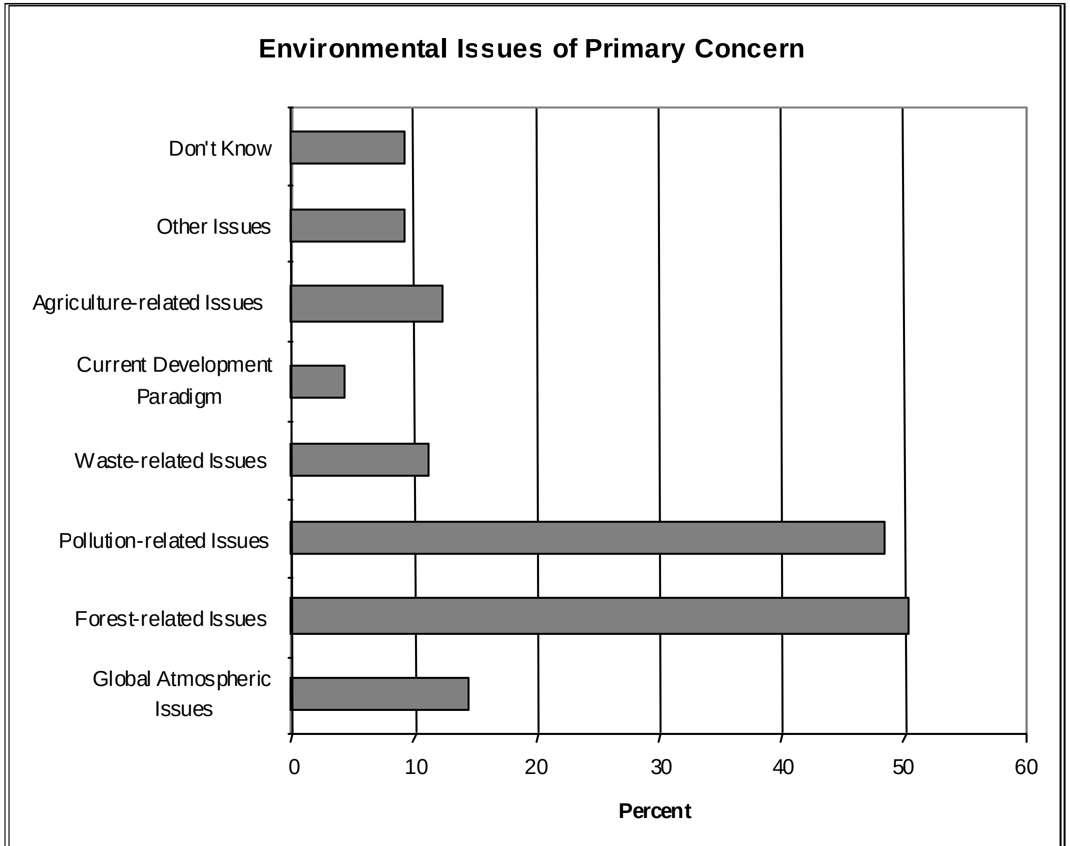
Social Concern for the Environment (N=96)		
2.5.4	***Frequency***	***% age***
Society shows too much concern for the environment	10	10.4
Society shows about the right amount of concern for the environment	31	32.3
Society doesn't show enough concern for the environment	55	57.3

2.5.5 Environmental Issues of Most Concern

Participants were asked to indicate the two environmental issues about which they were most concerned, in order to evaluate issues of prime importance by region, and demonstrate the structure of people's environmental concerns.

Figure 8 groups together the primary categories of issues showing that both forest-related issues and pollution-related issues were the primary concerns of the respondents. This reveals the high symbolic value both forests and pollution command in people's environmental imaginations.

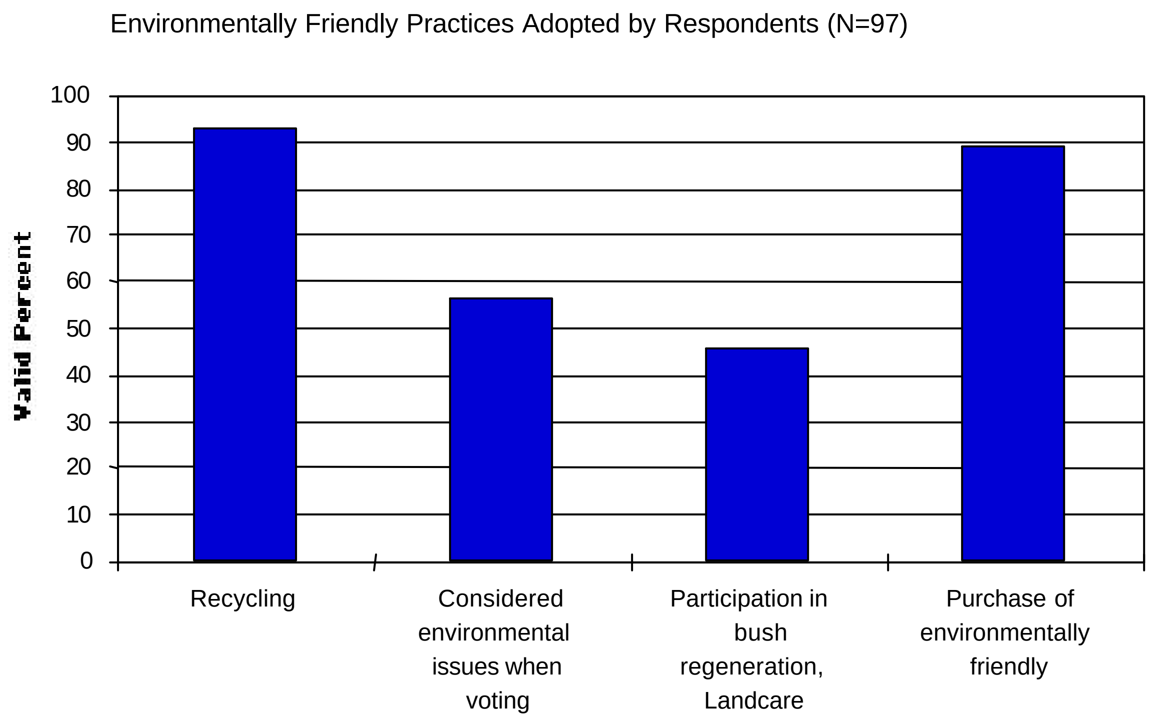
Figure 8



when voting (political activity), participation in bush regeneration, Landcare or an active anti-litter campaign (active participation); and purchase of environmentally friendly products (consumption behaviour).

recycle, and the purchase of environmentally friendly products (88.7%). More committed forms of behaviour also ranked relatively highly showing a strong commitment and interest in environmental issues within the sample.

Figure 9



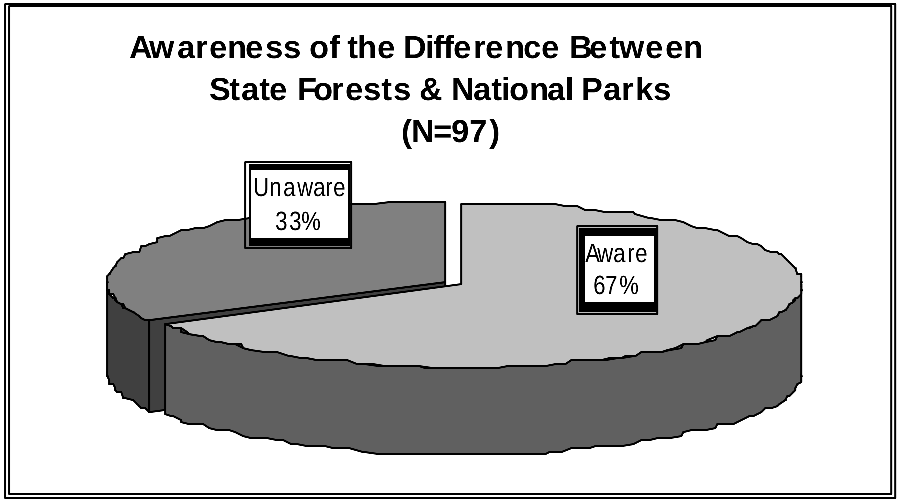
2.5.7 Introduction

There are two dimensions to people's attitudes towards forest land use. The first is their actual personal use, and the second is how they would like to see the land used at a broader scale. Factors influencing people's ideas include current land categories, the two most relevant ones being the division between State Forests and National Parks. To investigate these factors people were asked about their current usage

forested land was referred to under the umbrella term of 'public forests'. To further investigate uses of forested land a series of statements were read out to the respondents where they could indicate the extent to which they disagreed or agreed with the statement. To differing extents, all the questions in this section indicate the way people value forested land.

2.5.8 Awareness of National Park / State Forest Distinctions

Figure 10



2.5.9 Personal Use of Forested Land

Table 4 shows the frequency of visits to State Forests and National Parks (for people aware of the difference in tenure between the two) and Public Forests. It can seen that respondents visit forested areas (State Forests, National Parks and other public forests) on a very regular basis, with 32.3 percent, 20 percent and 29 percent, respectively, reporting to visit these areas more than once a week. In comparison of the frequency of visits to State Forests and National Parks it can be seen that respondents reported visiting State Forests on a more regular basis than National Parks with 52.3 percent of people visiting State Forests once a month, fortnightly or more than once a week, compared to 33.9 percent for National Parks.

TABLE 4

FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO PUBLIC FORESTS

	Frequency			Percentage		
	N=65		N=32			
	State Forests	National Parks	Public Forests	State Forests	National Parks	Public Forests
> once a week	21	13	9	32.3	20	29
Fortnightly	6	4	4	9.2	6.2	12.9
Once a month	7	5	2	10.8	7.7	6.5
Once every 2-3 months	8	10	5	12.3	15.4	16.1
Once every 6 months	6	13	1	9.2	20	3.2
Once a year	4	7	3	6.2	10.8	9.7
Hardly ever	9	9	6	13.8	13.8	19.4
Never	4	4	1	6.2	6.2	3.2
Not Applicable	32	32	66	-	-	-

2.5.10 Entrance Fees

National Park. There was, however, a lower

Parks(N=65)				
Public Forests (N=32)	12	38.7	19	61.3

2.5.11 Willingness to Pay

Table 6 shows the results of the question inquiring about respondents' willingness to pay an entrance fee to forested land. Figure 13, 14, 15 and Table 5 highlight the differences in responses for State Forests and National Parks. Forty three percent of respondents reported that they would not be prepared to pay an entrance fee to State Forests compared to only 25% for National Parks. The most popular amount people would be willing to pay was between $4-6.

Twenty six percent of respondents who did not know the differences between National Parks and State Forests would not be prepared to pay an entrance fee to public forests. The amount they would be prepared to pay was generally lower than those who were aware of the differences, being between $1-3.

TABLE 6

AMOUNT RESPONDENTS ARE PREPARED TO PAY TO VISIT FORESTED LAND ($)

	Frequency			Percentage		
	(N=65)		(N=31)			
	State Forests	National Parks	Public Forests	State Forests	National Parks	Public Forests
None	28	16	8	43.1	25	25.8
1-3	12	11	11	18.5	17.2	35.5
4-6	19	25	9	29.2	39.1	29
7-9	3	7	2	4.6	10.9	6.5
10-15	1	3	1	1.5	4.7	3.2
16-20	1	1	-	1.5	1.6	-
21-30	1	-	-	1.5	-	-
>30	-	1	-	-	1.6	-
N/A	32	32	66	-	-	-

2.6 ACTIVITIES IN FORESTED LAND

The main activities people undertake when they visit public forests are bushwalking, picnics and nature appreciation. Touring, visiting wilderness areas and swimming / surfing are the next most popular activities. People who knew the difference between national parks and state forests were more likely to visit forests for nature appreciation, picnics, touring and to visit wilderness areas (Figure 15), whilst those who did not know the difference were more likely to visit public forests to fish and swim or surf (Figure 16).

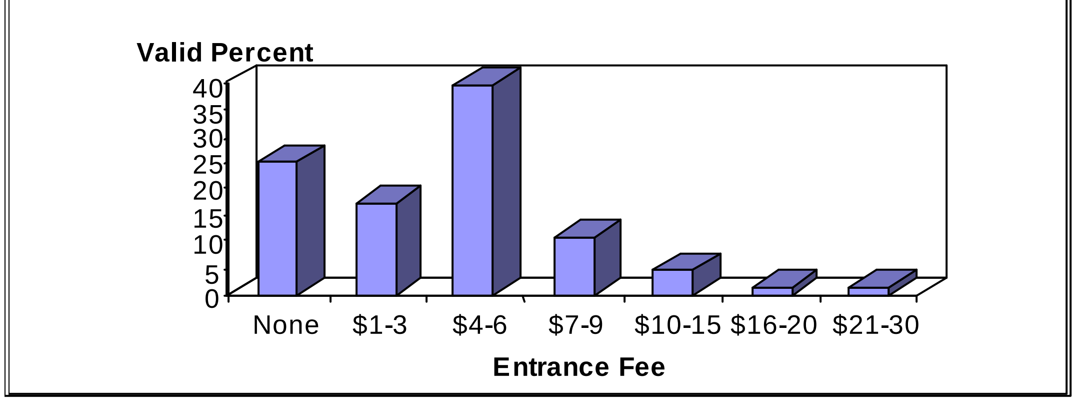


Figure 13

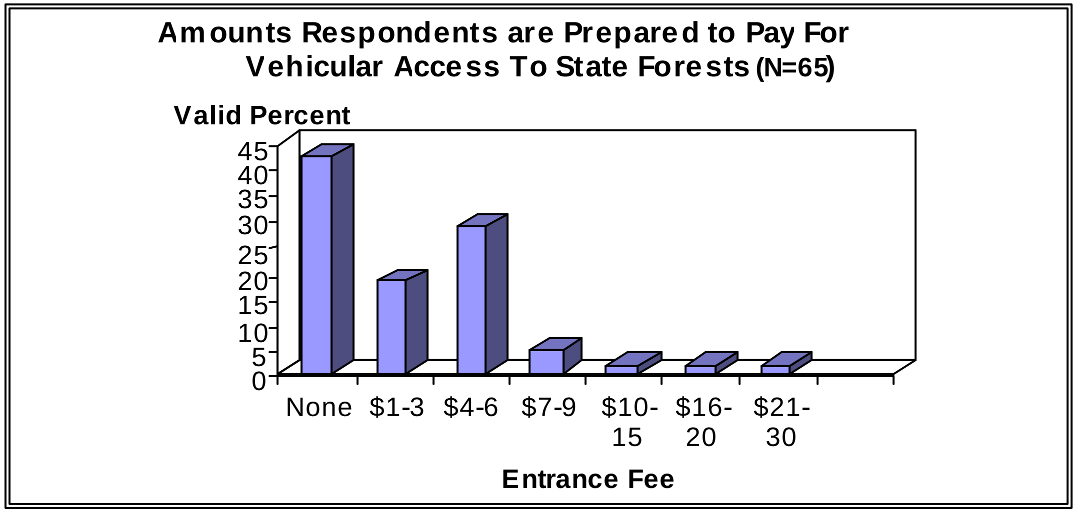
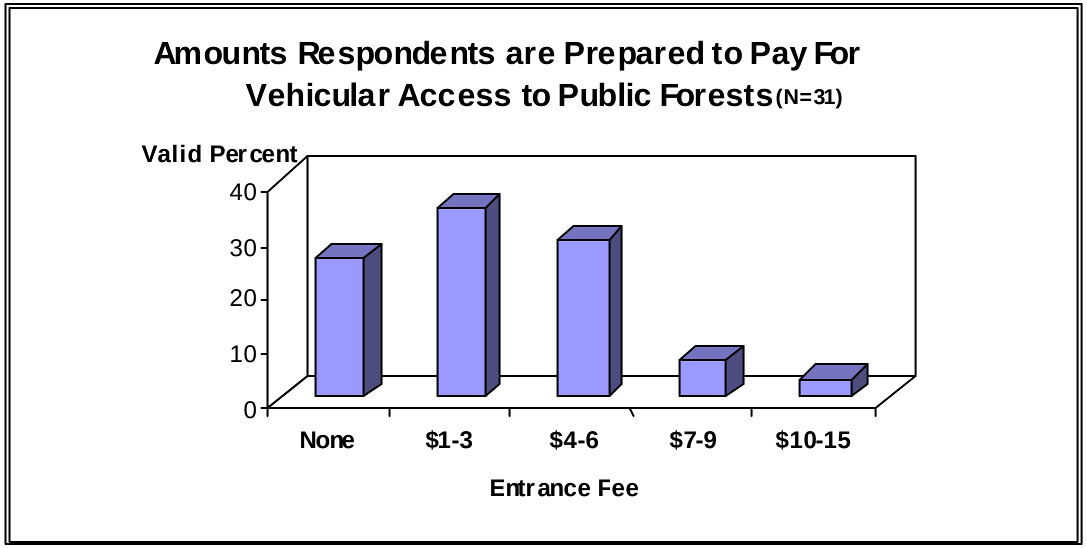
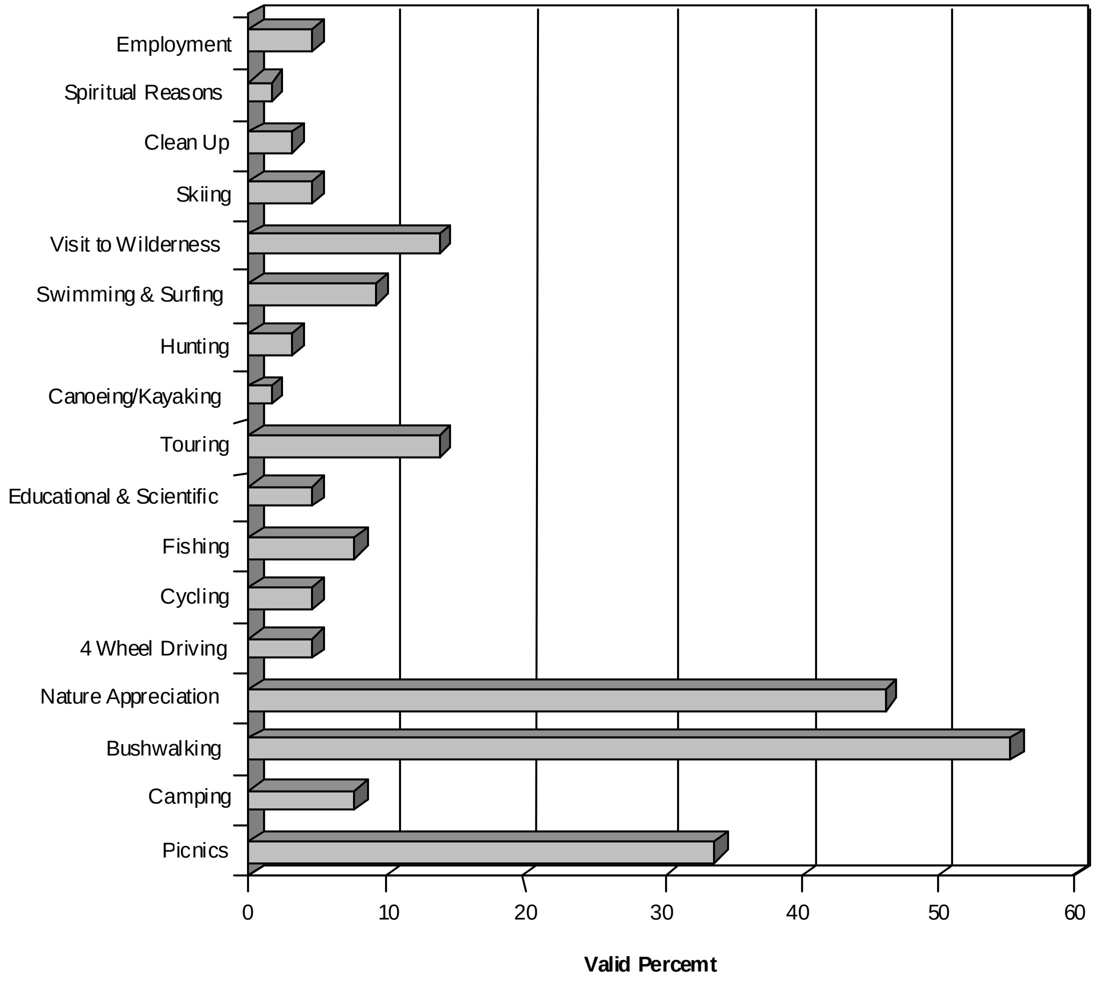


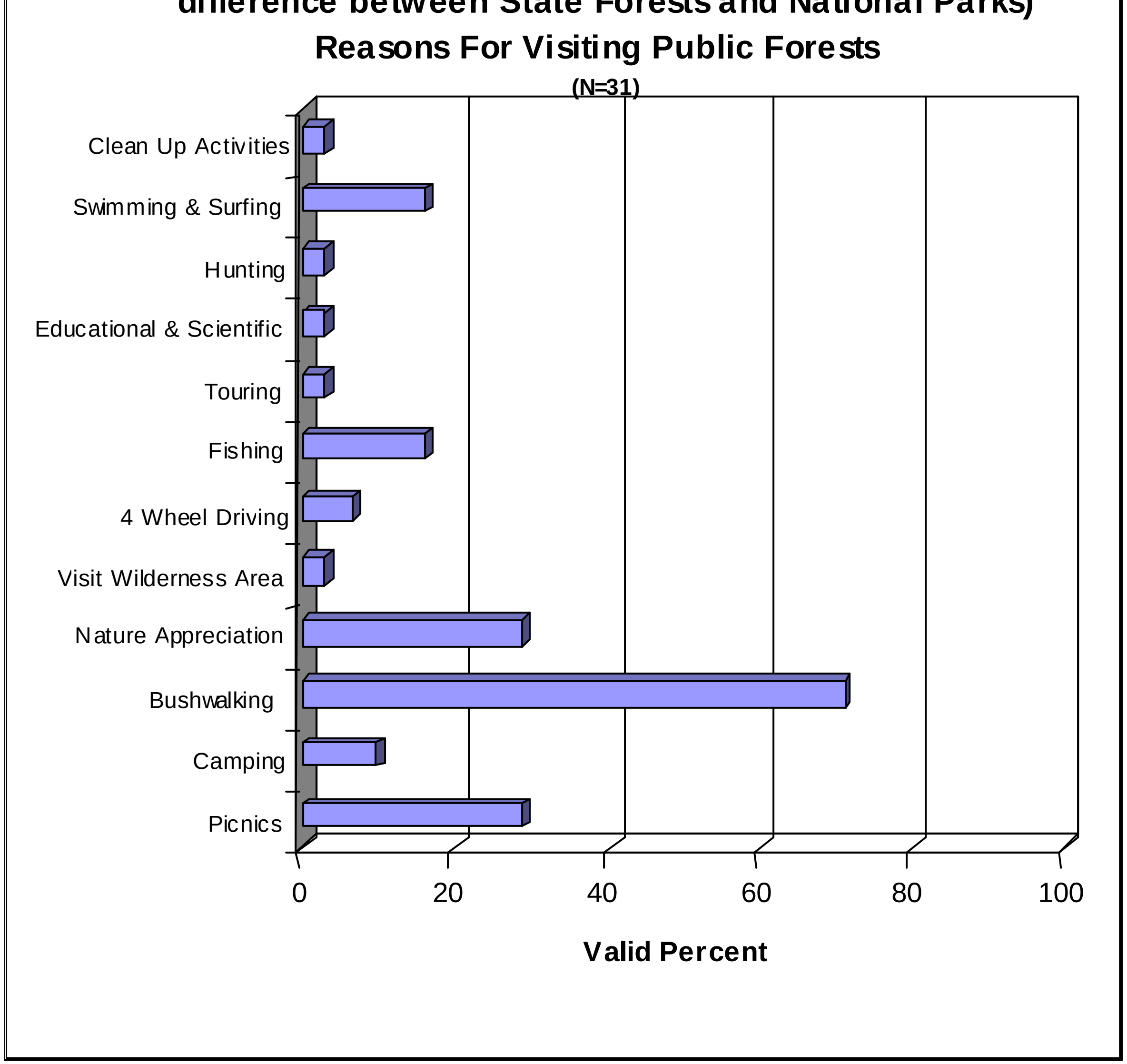
Figure 14



& National Parks) Reasons For Visiting Public Forests

(N=65)





2.6.1 Priority Uses of Forested Land

Figure 17 and Figure 18 indicate the responses from questions investigating what priority respondents gave to various activities with relation to public forests.

Figure 17 indicates that protecting wilderness, bushwalking / picnics, education / scientific, protecting native plants and animals, camping, protecting Aboriginal sites, maintaining sites of

providing grazing land should be high priorities for managers in either land tenure. There were mixed responses for economic priorities with respondents evenly distributed between those who thought economic activities should be a high priority in both, State Forests only, or not in either.

Parks are similar to those who were aware of the differences. The question for this group was modified slightly to allow them to indicate what activities should be a high priority, low priority and not allowed. The three activities which received the highest number of responses for the high priority category include: the protection of wilderness, protection of plants and animals, and

low priority include: grazing land, off-road recreation , mining, bee keeping and paper production. Hunting received the highest number of 'not allow' responses out of all the listed activities. It should be noted that there were some difficulties with the 'hunting' category with some people being pro-hunting feral animals but anti-hunting native animals.

2.6.2 Uses, Attitudes and Beliefs

The following section of the questionnaire explored respondents' attitudes to different uses of forested land and the conflict, perceived or actual, between certain uses. A series of statements were read out to the participants and they were asked to indicate whether they strongly agreed, agreed, were not sure, disagreed, or strongly disagreed with the statement.

2.6.3 Aboriginal Values

A large number of Aboriginal sites are to be found in State Forests and National Parks throughout NSW. In order to assess participants' attitude to the preservation of Aboriginal sites and the importance of this goal over all other uses of forested land, the questionnaire asked participants' response to the following statement '*Aboriginal sites of significance should be protected, and are more important than other uses of forested land'*.

Figure 19

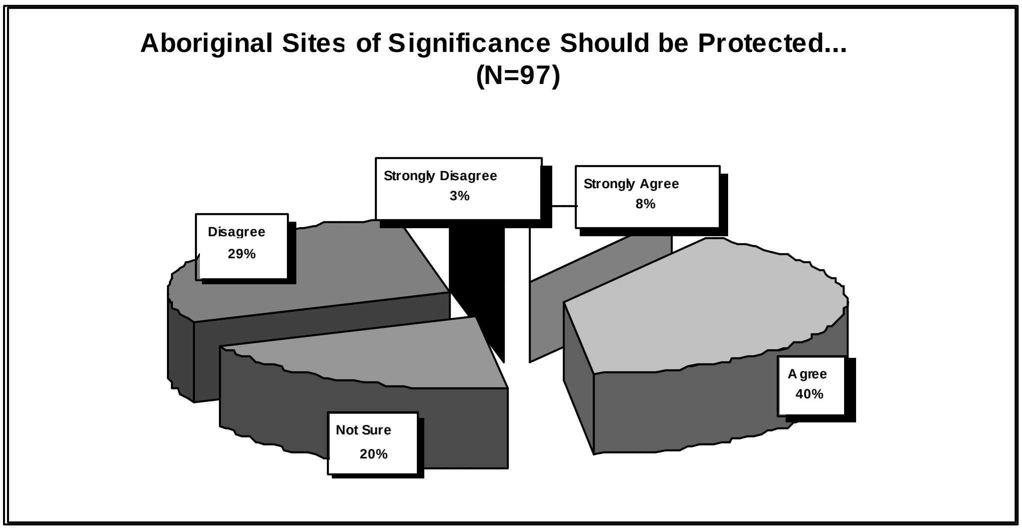


Figure 19 shows that 48 percent of respondents believe Aboriginal sites should be protected and are more important than other uses of forested land. A significant percentage of respondents were not sure (20%), and a total of 32% percent disagreed.

2.6.4 Coexistence of Environmental and Economic Goals

Natural resource management policy aims to ensure a balance between environmental protection and provision of resources for forestry industries. To investigate community attitudes towards this policy objective the statement '*Environmental protection cannot co-exist with forestry industries'* was tested on the participants.

Figure 20

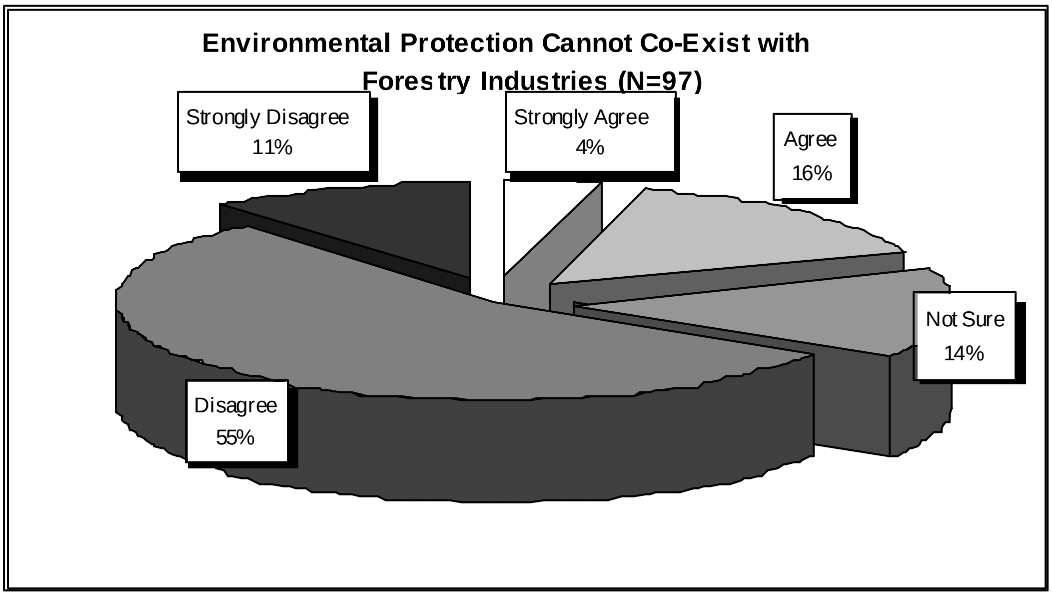


Figure 21 shows the responses to the above statement indicating that close to two thirds of the respondents disagree (54.6%) to strongly disagree (11.3%) with the above statement, meaning the majority of those surveyed felt that environmental protection can co-exist with forestry industries. The figure shows the relatively low number of people who strongly agreed (4%) to agree (15%) with the statement.

2.6.5 Economic Importance of the Forestry Industry to Small Communities

The statement '*The forestry industry can be economically important for some small communities providing valuable employment, and therefore should be maintained*' was tested on the participants in order to elicit their attitude to the maintenance of forest industry activities in small towns in the light of the perceived economic importance of such activities.

Figure 21

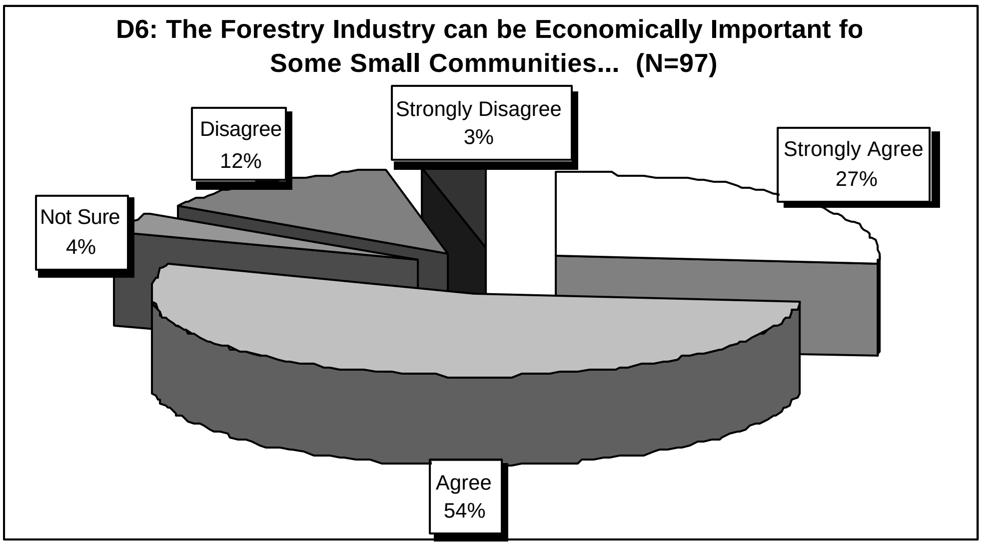


Figure 21 shows the majority of respondents (81%) believe some small communities are economically reliant upon the forestry industry and believe it should be sustained for these small communities. A high percentage (26.8%) of respondents tended to strongly agree with the statement and 53.6 percent agreed with the statement. Only 3.1 percent of people strongly disagreed and 12.4 disagreed with the statement.

2.6.6 International Dimension of Forest Use

To explore the international dimension of forest use, and more specifically timber products, the statement *'Australia should draw its timber products from Australian forests rather than overseas forests even if overseas timber products are cheaper'* was tested on participants.

Figure 22

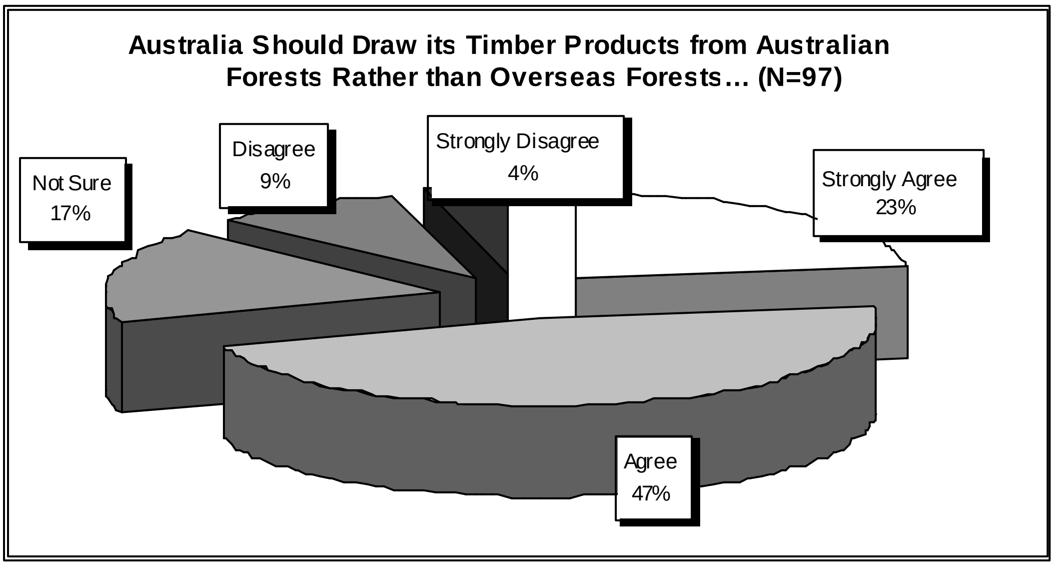


Figure 22 indicates the respondents strongly agree with the above statement, and wish to see Australia draw its timber product needs from Australian forests rather than overseas. The majority of people (70%) thought timber should be sourced from Australian forests. Less than 14 percent of respondents indicated a negative response to the statement

2.6.7 Conservation and State Income

To contrast conservation uses with economic uses (such as timber production) the following statement was tested on the survey participants '*I would like to see more forested land conserved even if it means a loss of income to the state from timber harvesting'*. The question also explored participants' responses to the situation of potential conflict between conservation use and state income from the use of forests for timber harvesting.

Figure 23

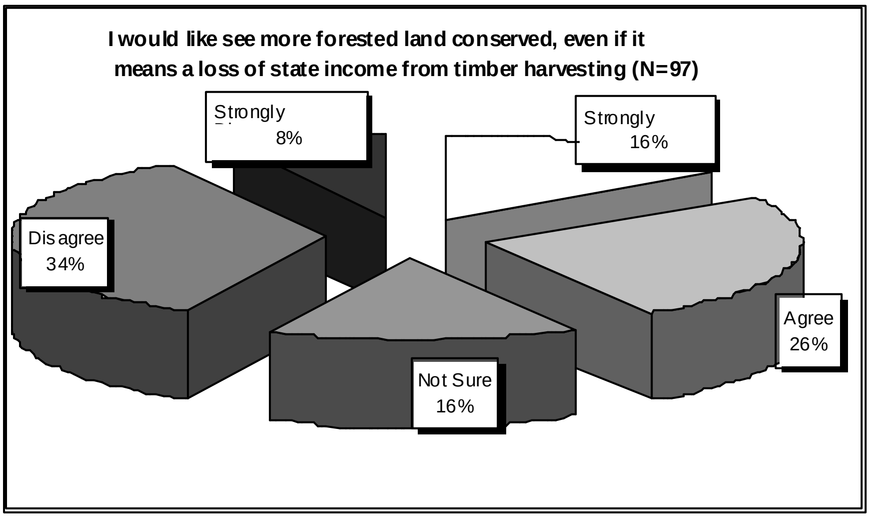
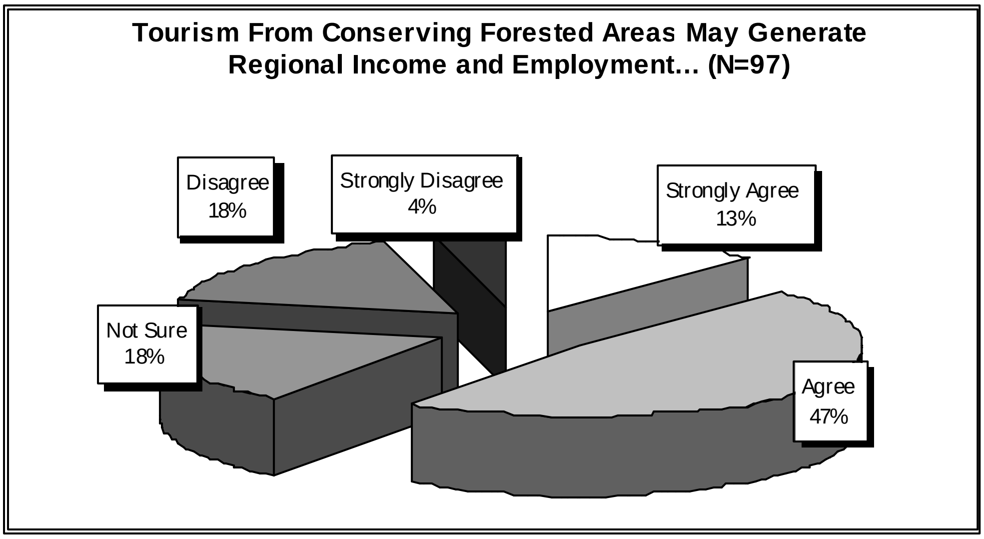


Figure 23 shows that 43.4% of people agreed with the statement whilst 43.3% disagreed with the statement. The reflects the difficulties experienced by people and communities when conservation values and economic values come into conflict.

2.6.8 Non-extractive Economic Uses of Forested Land

To reveal the extent to which people believe non-extractive economic uses of forested land can offset income and employment losses in extractive industries, respondents were asked to respond to the following statement, '*Tourism from conserving forested areas may be able to generate regional income and employment offsetting possible losses in the timber industry*' are given in Figure 25.

Figure 24

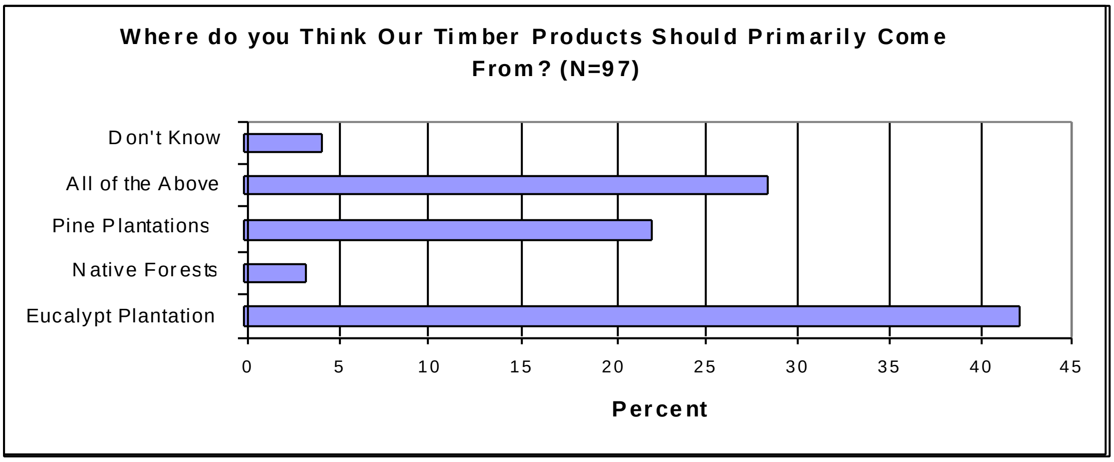


There was a strong positive response to the above statement with close to half (47.9%) of respondents agreeing with the statement and a further 12.5 percent strongly agreeing with the statement. Close to 18 percent of respondents were unsure and a further 18 percent indicated that they disagreed with the statement.

2.6.9 Source of Timber Products

The figures represented in Figure 25 indicates that the majority of respondents would prefer to have timber sources from eucalypt plantations and pine plantations, with a low percentage of people wanting timber products sourced from native forests.

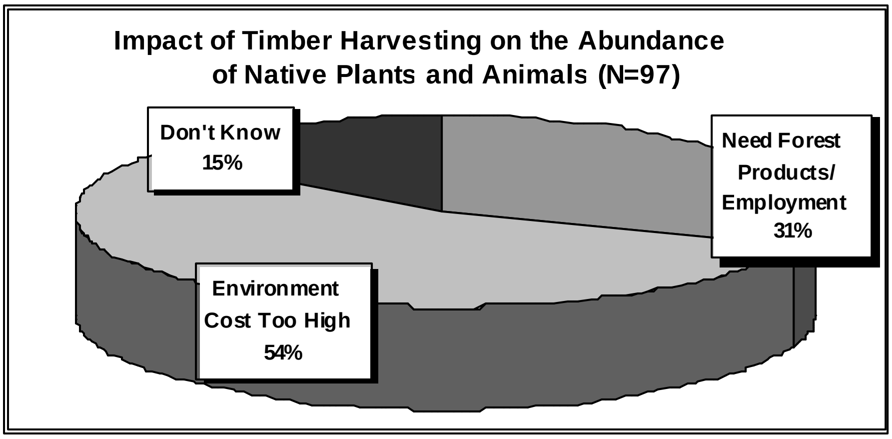
Figure 25



2.6.10 Economic and Conservation Uses of Forests

In order to explore the potential scenario of a conflict between conservation and socio-economic uses of forested land participants were given a probable scenario and then given two options in order to clearly identify people's value orientations. The probable scenario was that timber harvesting in native forests may have an adverse impact on the abundance of native plants and animals. The options respondents had to choose from were limited in order to identify their value orientation between socio-economic objectives (forestry products and employment) and environmental objectives (conservation and protection of native species).

Figure 26



The figures presented in Figure 26 and Table 7 indicates just over half of respondents (54%) valued conservation and the preservation of animal and plant species over economic objectives such as jobs and forestry products (30.5%).

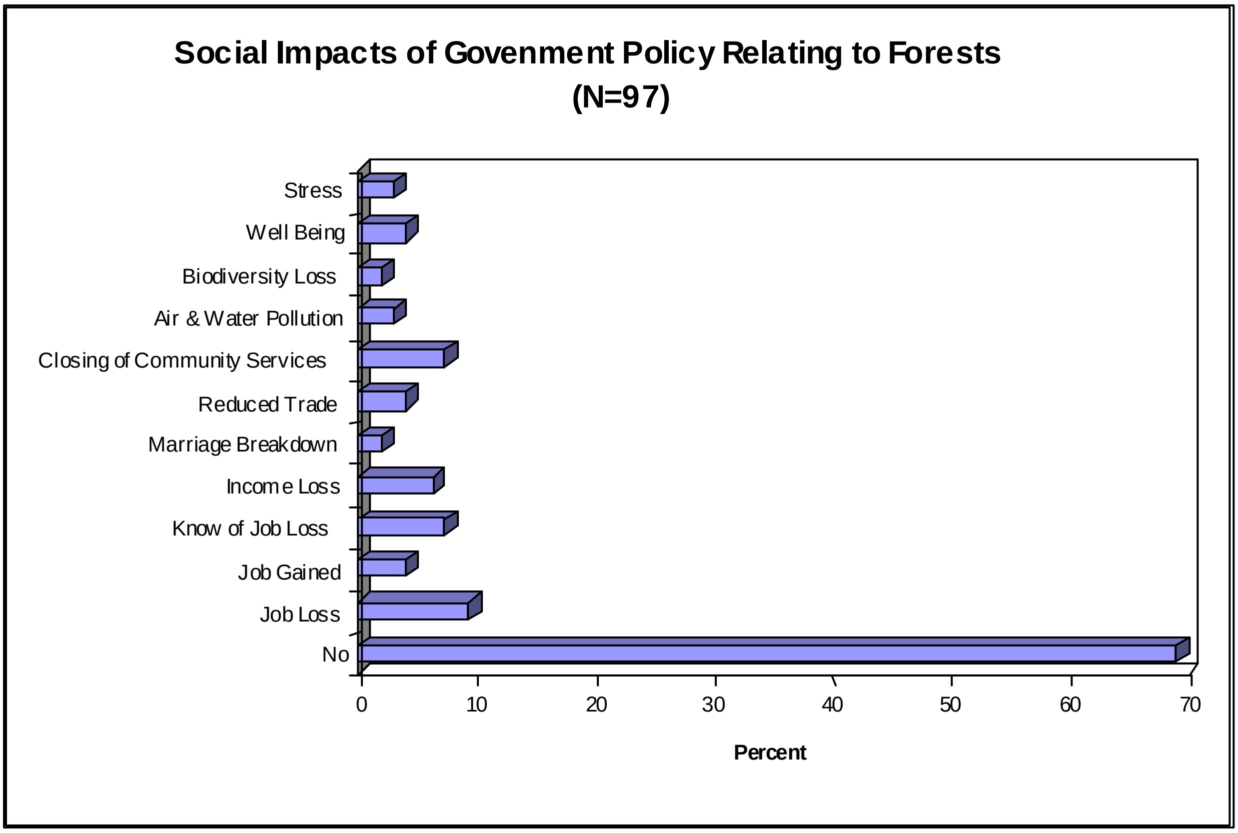
TABLE 7

TIMBER HARVESTING IN NATIVE FORESTS MAY HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE ABUNDANCE OF NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS. IF THIS IS THE CASE, DO YOU THINK: (N=97)	Frequency	Percentage
This is unfortunate but we need forestry products and employment	29	30.5
The environmental costs are too high, it might be better to compromise on forestry activities	52	54.7
Dont know	14	14.7

2.6.11 Social Impact of Forest Policy

Participants were asked if they or their family had been directly affected in any way by government policy relating to forests in order to identify the social impacts of forest policy and the geographical location of these impacts. The responses indicate that the majority of respondents (71.3%) reported they had not been directly affected by government forest policy. However, 9.6 percent of respondents in the Eden CRA region reported 'job loss' as one effect of forest policy; with 7.4 percent of people reporting 'community services closing' and 'knowing of job losses', respectively, as social effects of forest policy, as well as 6.4 percent reporting 'income loss' as one way they had been affected by forest policy . Interestingly, whilst 7.4 percent of people reported 'job loss' as one effect, 4.3 percent reported 'job gained' as an effect.

Figure 27



2.7 SOCIAL VALUES OF FORESTED LAND

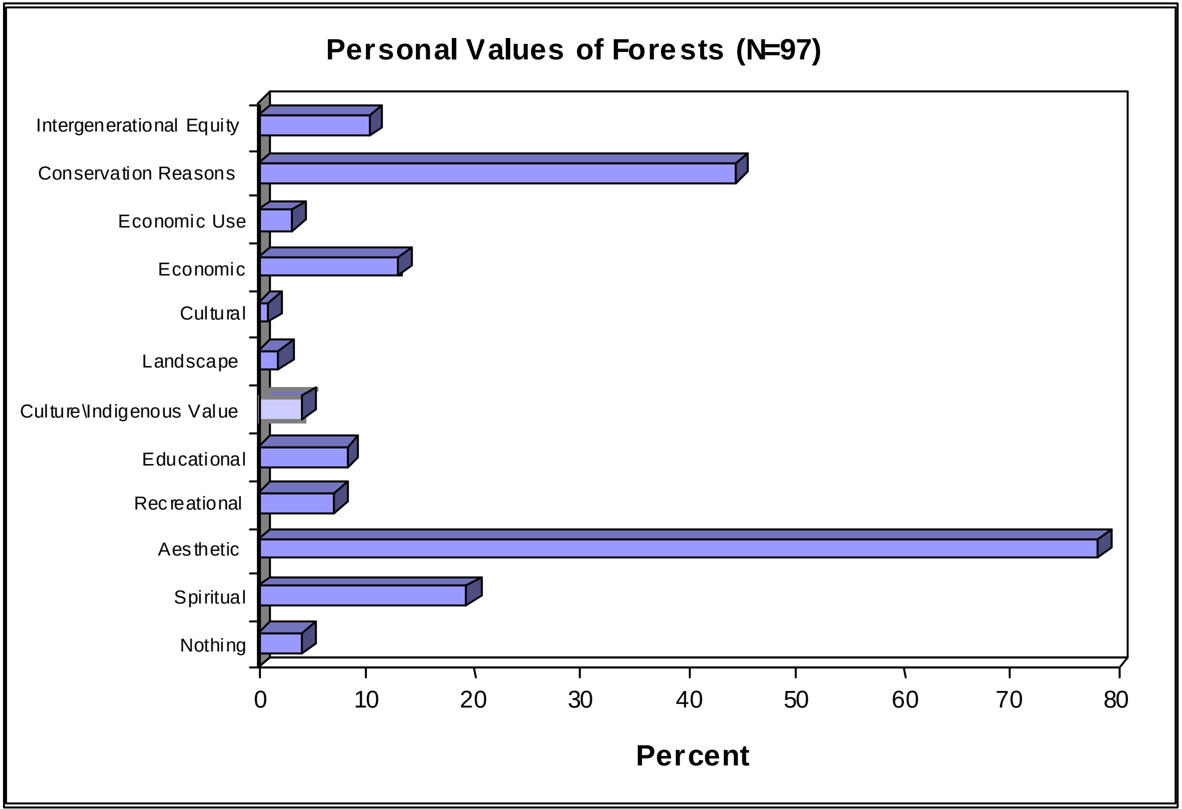
2.7.1 Introduction

This section was composed of five key questions to further investigate how people value forested land.

2.7.2 Personal Value of Forests

To gain an understanding of what people value about forests at a personal level, people were asked "what is it about forests that you value?". Figure 28 displays the responses to the question.

Figure 28

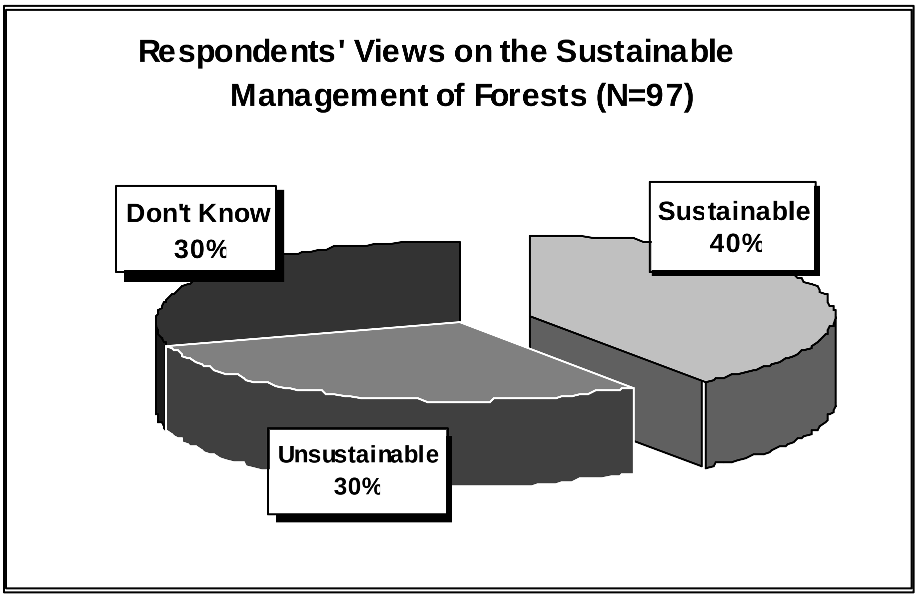


The results indicate that a high percentage of respondents (78.4%) valued the aesthetic qualities of forests. Respondents also indicated that the conservation qualities (44.3%) were highly valued as were the spiritual qualities (19.6). The next most frequent responses were from those who valued forests for their economic values (16.5%) and by people who wanted to sustain the environment for future generations (10.3%).

2.7.3 Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management

Ecologically sustainable management is a policy principle for forests in Australia. To test the public's perception and awareness of the term, participants were asked if they thought current management of forested land is ecologically sustainable. Responses were fairly evenly divided between three categories for this question, with a high percentage of respondents reporting they did not know.

Figure 29



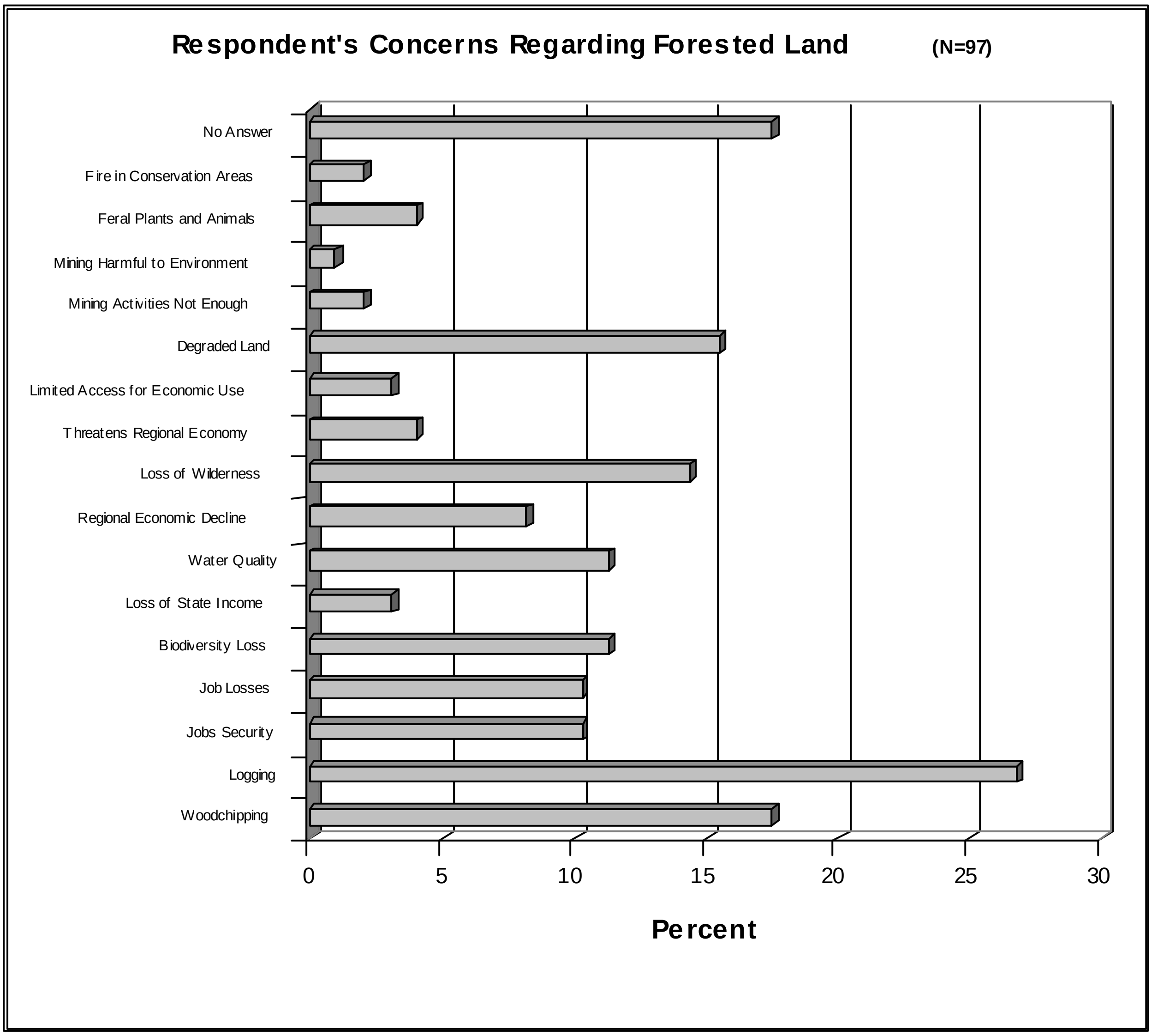
Forty percent of the sample from Eden CRA region perceive current management of forested land to be ecologically sustainable, with equal proportions of remaining sample reporting a no (29.8%) or don't know (29.8%) response, as outlined in Figure 30.

2.7.4 Issues of Concern Relating to Forested Land

Respondents were asked what issues regarding forested land they were specifically concerned about. Almost eighteen percent of respondents did not nominate any forest related issues as being of particular concern. Twenty seven percent of the sample reported they were concerned about logging and 17.5 percent reported they were concerned about woodchipping. The next most frequently recorded issues were 'loss of wilderness' (14.4%) and 'degraded land' (15.5%), as shown and illustrated in Figure 31.

Environmental concerns were then followed by economic and social concerns the most frequently cited responses being concerns about job losses and job security (10.3% respectively).

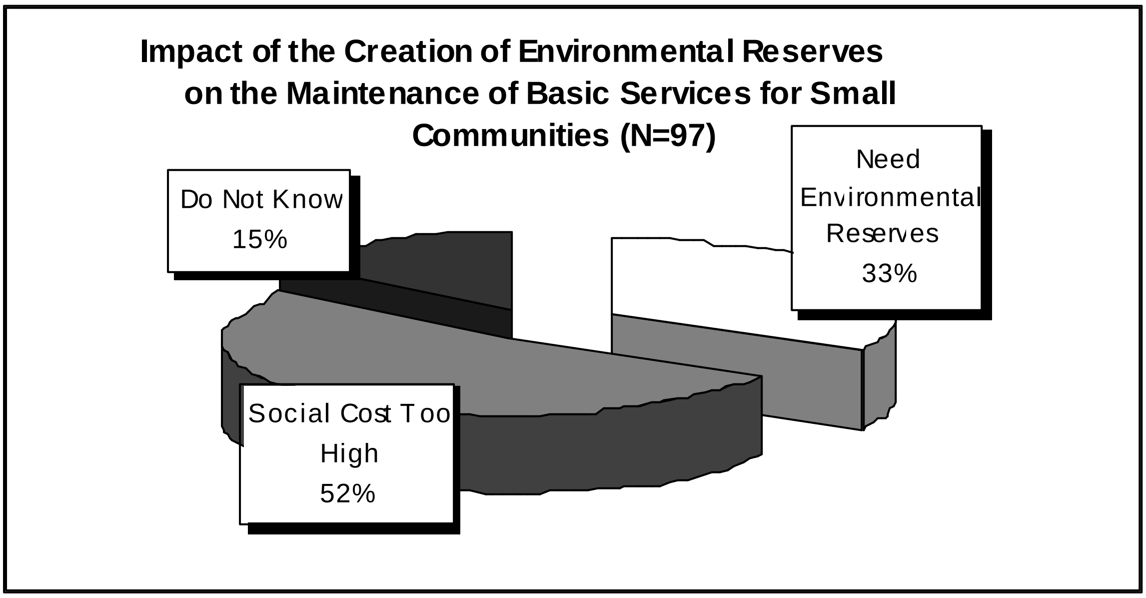
Figure 30



2.7.5 Social and Conservation Values

This question explored people's responses to the potential scenario of a conflict between conservation and social values relating to the use of forested land. Survey participants were given a probable scenario and then given two options in order to clearly identify people's value orientations. The scenario was that forestry jobs may be lost to create environmental reserves, and this may then affect some small communities adversely by reducing their access to basic services (as the population may decline to a level that may lead to the closing of schools, health services etc.). The options respondents had to choose from were limited in order to identify their value orientation between social and community objectives (access to basic services) and environmental objectives (conservation and environmental reserves). The results are displayed Figure 31.

Figure 31



The majority of respondents (52%) felt that, if the social costs of closing essential services in small communities were too high, it would be better to compromise on environmental reserves. Nearly 15 percent of people did not know which option to choose or did not understand the question.

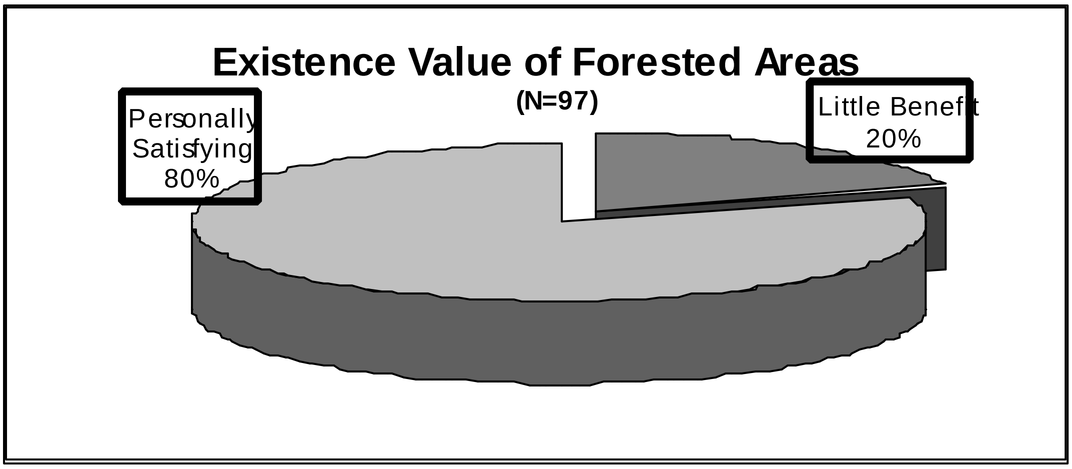
2.7.6 Existence Value of Forests

To explore respondents' attitude to the existence values of forests in comparison to anthropocentric values, the following question was asked of the survey participants:

TABLE 8

SOME FORESTED AREAS ARE RARELY VISITED OR USED BY PEOPLE. DO YOU FEEL: (N=96)	Frequency	Percentage
there is little benefit in having forested land if humans can't use it for some type of recreational or economic activity.	19	20
it is personally satisfying to know that there is forested land that is 'untouched' by humans even if it is never used for recreational or economic activity	77	80

Figure 32



The results clearly show in Figure 32 and Table 8 that people are in favour of wilderness areas that are not used for recreational or economic activities, with 80% of respondents indicating that it is personally satisfying to know there is forested land 'untouched' by humans.

2.8 CONCLUDING COMMENTS

This report investigated the attitudes of people in the Eden CRA region towards forests and forest use. Ninety seven people were interviewed with a Statewide rejection rate (those who were actually contacted as opposed to unanswered) of approximately 70%. The attitudes of these people remain unknown and is an unavoidable problem in any mass surveying methodology. The demographic profile of those who did respond showed a trend towards people who have received further education, when compared to profiles generated from 1991 Census data. The effect of this trend upon people's attitudes is unknown and a source of debate, although it is possible that highly educated people, may have stronger environmental value systems than the general public.

2.8.1 Forest Use

The majority of the sample were frequent visitors to forested areas. The high percentage of people who knew the difference between State Forests and National Parks (67%) indicated that they personally valued visiting National Parks more than State Forests by indicating they would be willing to pay more to visit them. Most people used forested areas for recreational purposes such as bushwalking, picnics and nature appreciation. Respondents indicated that recreational and conservation uses of forested land should be priorities for forest managers in all types of forests, whilst people were divided as to whether economic uses such as timber and paper production should be priorities for managers of both State Forests and National Parks, only State Forests, or not allowed or a priority at all. Hunting, mining and providing grazing land were considered the least appropriate uses of forested land. Using forested land to conserve of Aboriginal sites of significance gained high support throughout the survey.

2.8.2 Forest Values

The strength of people’s economic, social and environmental values were analysed at two scales. Firstly at a non-specific macro-scale most of the sample put economic and social priorities before environmental priorities. ‘Unemployment’ and ‘the health system’ were the most frequently mentioned responses when the sample was questioned about their primary concerns. ‘The environment’ was ranked third from a list of seven options being ranked slightly higher than in previous surveys, and was ranked particularly highly by women and those with a close proximity to forest related issues. However, still at a macro-scale but put into a specifically forestry context the sample became evenly divided between those that put environmental values first and those that put economic values first when an 'environment versus economic' question was posed. This change in value orientation shows the high status forest issues possess in the structure of people's environmental concern. The even distribution of respondents identifying with either the environmental priority or the economic priority shows a high degree of uncertainty and potential conflict within the community about these issues. At a micro-scale attitudes towards forests in terms of environmental, social and economic priorities was investigated again by looking at hypothetical micro-scale effects of broad policy decisions. When forestry products and employment were contrasted with the abundance of native plants and animals just over half of the respondents opted for the environmental priority. This suggests that in this particular situation at a micro-scale, people value the biological communities of forests more than they value the economic benefits of forests. This does not necessarily contradict the responses to broad scale questions, instead it shows that whilst people are more concerned about unemployment in general they would prefer to see jobs come from industries which will not effect the environmental values of forests. This can also be seen in responses where people indicated their support for the existence of wilderness areas even if these areas are never used for economic or social reasons.

Another question was asked which contrasted micro-scale value orientations by considering a hypothetical social effect of conserving forested land. Whilst people were prepared to put environmental values before economic values at a micro-scale, if these environmental standards were then to negatively effect the social structure of small communities, people valued the social above the environmental. Thus the majority of people thought that the environmental standards of forested land should be maintained only if there were no major negative social effects on small communities reliant upon forestry employment. This value orientation was also reflected in an earlier macro-scale question which indicated that the forestry industry has particular importance and value to small communities and therefore should be maintained. Thus the sample indicated that they were concerned about unemployment at a macro-scale but when put into a forest context people generally ranked environmental values of forests over the economic values of forests, and the specific social benefits of forests to small communities above both. The sample also believed that increased tourism could potentially provide regional employment and income.

At a personal level respondents indicated the main reason they valued all forests was for aesthetic reasons. They enjoyed the beauty, space and natural experiences forests provide. They also valued forests for conservation reasons, valuing the knowledge that forest ecosystems exist and are surviving. The third most popular reason was spiritual, valuing forests for the way it made them feel. The fourth most popular reason was economic, valuing forests for the employment or income it provides.

There were considerable differences and conflicts within the sample but the general trend was that unemployment was a high priority as a macro-scale issue but the distinctions became less clear at a micro-scale or when put in a forest context. Forests have strong symbolic environmental values that people want to preserve. The only time the majority of the sample considered it justified to conciliate these environmental values was when the social structures and services of small local communities became jeopardised.

3. COMMUNITY CASE STUDIES

3.1 METHODOLOGY

A component of Eden CRA Social Assessment is the construction of detailed case study communities, selected from within the regional study boundary.

A multi-methods approach was taken to develop a profile of each case study area including: an assessment of the social and economic structure of communities; an historical assessment of significant events in the community; an assessment of community attachment and visions for the future. The analysis drew upon data collected using secondary demographic data, workshops, interviews, focus group and participant observation methods. Secondary data sources included census statistics, Shire reports, government publications and community service directories. Extensive fieldwork was undertaken by the Forest Community Coordinator for the Eden region.

A community workshop was conducted within each of the case study communities in order to qualitatively assess the level of current stress, the strength of community attachment, and current levels of vulnerability and adaptability. In addition, some hypothetical resource scenarios were explored. The invited community members were chosen from the following broad categories: specific industry groups relating to the economic structure of the community, conservation groups, local government, forest management agencies, community infrastructure sectors, Indigenous communities and landholders.

Participants were asked to focus on a number of questions designed to reflect the characteristics of their community.
These questions were:

1. What have been the significant events in your community since 1980 ?
2. How did the community manage two those events (one positive and one negative) ?
3. How do you feel about this community?
4. What are some of the visions for this community ?

Participants were then asked to consider positive and negative impacts of three hypothetical public forest land use scenarios in order to assist in a community self assessment of potential impacts.
These 'what if' scenarios were:

1. That currently deferred areas become available for industry use.
2. That deferred areas are gazetted as conservation reserve
3. That 50% deferred areas become conservation reserve, and 50% deferred areas become available for industry use.

The workshops were carried out by trained facilitators and the outcomes of the discussion recorded. The recorded outcomes of each workshop were fed back to each group in a second workshop some time later to ensure representations and interpretations were accurate.

The outcome of these workshops is included with each case study area.

3.2 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The case study areas were selected with stakeholder consultation and on the basis of diversity of size, industries, infrastructure, growth/decline and urban/rural, as well as an assessed vulnerability to changes to forest tenure and management.

The Social and Economic Technical Committee approved as case study communities the townships of Eden, Bega, Merimbula, Bombala, Cobargo, Pambula, Wyndham and Wonboyn Lake.

3.3 CASE STUDY AREA BOMBALA(TOWN)

3.3.1 History of settlement

Bombala township was settled about 1848 as an important settlement on a trade route with the confluence of the Bombala River and Cambalong Creek (Bombala Shire State of the Environment Report 1996).

Other villages in the Bombala Shire Council area include Delegate (450 people), Cathcart, Bibbenluke and Ando.

The Shire's primary resource is forestry (pine plantation and hardwood) and sheep grazing. The primary transport route is the Monaro Highway which connects both the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria (East Gippsland). An estimated road network is necessary to service such a large region (3,945 sq kms). The 969 kms of roads are made up of 711 kms of Council formed roads, 48 kms of unformed roads and 210 kms of Roads and Traffic Authority roads.

3.3.2 Population and Trends

4.7 Bombala (Town) Selected Characteristics (ABS 1996)

	Male	Female	Persons
Total persons (a)	683	697	1,380
Aged 15 years and over	536	549	1,085
Aboriginal	3	0	3
Torres Strait Islander	3	0	3
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander(b)	0	0	0
Australian born	601	614	1,215
Born Overseas:			
Canada, Ireland, NZ, South Africa, UK(c) and USA	36	30	66
Other country(d)	17	15	32
Total	*53*	*45*	*98*
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	603	615	1,218
Speaks language other than English(e) and aged 5 years and over	8	9	17
Australian citizen	646	649	1,295
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	471	471	942
Unemployed	24	16	40
Employed	357	221	578
In the labour force	381	237	618
Not in the labour force	139	295	434
Unemployment Rate	6.3%	6.8%	6.5%
Enumerated in private dwellings	658	660	1,318
Enumerated in non-private dwellings	25	37	62

The Bombala Shire has a population of 2,246 of which about 1,380 people reside in the town (ABS 1996). The population of the Shire has shown a minor decline over recent census years with 2,285 people recorded as residents in 1991 (ABS). The recorded population of the town of Bombala has declined slightly from 1402 in 1991.

3.3.3 Industry by Employment

In 1991, the following table summarised the industry by employment of people living in the Bombala LGA.

Industry	Total percentage Bombala LGA 1991	Total percentage NSW all ages
Agriculture, forestry fishing	40.1	3.9
Mining	0	1
Manufacturing	7.9	13.1
Electricity, gas, water	0.5	1.4
Construction	2.1	6.2
Wholesale, retail trade	10.7	18.9
Transport & storage	3.5	5
Communication	1.3	1.7
Finance & Business Services	2.4	12.7
Public admin & defence services	6.8	5
Community services	13.7	17
Recreation & personal services	5.7	7.3
Not classifiable	0.2	0.3
Not stated	5.1	6.5
Total	100	100

Source: Bombala State of the Environment Report 1996 update

While these industry categories are indicative only, the highest industry by employment category recorded for the Bombala LGA is Agriculture, forestry and fishing with 40.1 % which compares to a state-wide figure of 3.9%.

The unemployment rate of males in Bombala Shire in 1996 was 7.8%, and the female unemployment rate was 6.3%. The male participation rate was 70.86% and the female participation rate was 46.24% (ABS 1996). In Bombala Town, the participation rate of males and females was similar to shire figures, however the unemployment rate for males was lower in Bombala Town at 6.3%.

In 1996, 20% of employees in Bombala Town, and 32% of employees in Bombala Shire, worked in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (ABS). In 1991, the same industries employed 38% of employed persons in the Shire. In 1991, the forestry, logging, wood and wood products industry accounted for approximately 16% of the Shire's employment (ERM Mitchell McCotter 1995).

The Tablelands Mill in Bombala employed 26 full time staff on a daily shift (Bombala Shire Council State of the Environment Report 1996). The company's wood supply agreement with the NSW State Government provided for an annual quota of sawlogs of 33,500 cubic metres (ERM Mitchell McCotter 1995). Annual expenditure on wages and salaries at the mill was approximately $585,000 (ERM Mitchell McCotter 1995).

In 1995 there were six hardwood logging contractors based in Bombala employing approximately 35 people, with investment in the industry of approximately $4.25million (ERM Mitchell McCotter 1995). In 1997, there were four logging contractors based in the Bombala Shire (SAU Surveys 1997).

A CSR softwood sawmill employed 40 people in 1995 with an annual throughput of 80,000 tonnes (ERM Mitchell McCotter 1995). In 1996, the employment at CSR was approximately 13 - 19 people. In addition, there is a pine processing plant, producing 'koppers logs' and employed 31 - 36 people in 1996. The State Forests softwood office and workshop employs approximately 55 people. Recurrent talks of industry development options to take account of thinning and harvesting of softwood in Bombala since the ERM Mitchell McCotter study. At time of writing a firm pine processing development plan has not been identified.

The following table outlines the industry by employment in the township of Bombala., 1996

Industry sector	#	%

Agriculture forestry and fishing	117	19.8
Mining	0	0
Manufacturing	80	13.5
Electricity Gas and Water Supply	3	0.5
Construction	30	5.1
Wholesale Trade	28	4.7
Retail Trade	75	12.7
Accommodation cafes and restaurants	43	7.3
Transport and Storage	18	3
Communication Services	9	1.5
Finance and Insurance	12	2
Property and Business Services	21	3.5
Govt Admin and Defence	51	8.6
Education	46	7.8
Health and Community Services	34	5.7
Culture and Recreation Services	6	1
Personal and Other services	12	2
Non-classifiable economic units	0	0
Not stated	6	1
Total	591	

Source ABS 1996

3.3.4 Income

The median weekly income for Bombala (town is $200-299. The median weekly household income is $500 - $699.
The median weekly and household income for Bombala Shire is within the same range.

3.3.5 Infrastructure

Communications

The Bombala Post Office has been privately franchised since the business was put up for sale in January 1996. The Bombala Post Office delivers to Cathcart and Delegate as well as Bombala. There are currently 2 full time and one part time staffing positions. The Postman is contracted by Australia Post. There are 846 delivery addresses in Bombala, and 346 in Delegate.

Schools

Bombala has a High School with some 248 students and 9-10 teachers in 1997. Students from remote Victoria also attend Bombala High. An Adult Learning Centre is attached to the school.

Bombala also had two primary schools. The State School has appproximately 160 pupils in 1997, declining from 234 in 1989. A school population below 180 such a this one, in general loses its teaching pricipal, however Bombala has to date lobbied to keep this position. St Josephs Primary in 1996 had 72 students and in 1997, 62 students. Four - five full time staff and other part time ancillary staff are employed.

Housing

The Tablelands Mill owns nine houses in the town which are being offered to the Mill employees. The housing market has been relatively stable in the area with a shortage of rental accommodation in the town.

Health

Both Bombala and nearby Delegate have district hopsitals which cater to minor health matters and convalescents and rehabilitation. Neither hopsital has maternity or operating facilities.These facilities are located in Pambula, Bega or Cooma.
There are two doctors in Bombala, a communityealth service, community Care Centre and a Meals on Wheels service.

Retail & Trade

There were 156 listings in Bombala in the 1997 database ‘Australia on Disc’. The Community services directory published by the Bombala Shire lists some 15 voluntary and/or special interest organisations.

One bank closed its branch in 1996, the Taxi service also ceased in 1996.

3.3.6 Events

Annual events in the town include; the Fair Organ Rally , the Wool and Wood Festival, the Timber Ball and Motor Bike Show (350 exhibits). Bombala also recently hosted the National Lavender Conference with some 200 attendees from around Australia and New Zealand. Such annual events are seen as the major potential to attract tourism to the town.

3.4 OUTCOMES OF BOMBALA COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Held: Monday 24th February 1997

Two issues were raised at the outset of the meeting as general concerns about the Regional Forest Agreement process. The particpants asked, " If the Premier of NSW has already announced additions to the National Parks, why are we bothering with a social assessment ?". Some workshop particpants also believed that the areas identified as part of the Interim Deferred Areas were already 'locked away'. The meeting resolved unanimously to write a letter to State and Federal governments expressing these concerns.

3.4.1 Significant Events

The table below records significant events identified by the workshop.

Date	Event
ongoing	Upgrade Cann Valley Highway, increased interstate traffic through town
1974-75	Prime Pine mill established
1983	Fire destroyed third of the pine plantation resource
1985	Govt services move from Bombala - Court House, Soil Conservation, and Dept of Agriculture
1986	Train stopped
1986	CSR promise of softwood development- hasn't happened yet
1986 - 97	Police downgraded from 4 to 2
1987-97	Timber support group - hardworking association
1988	Promise to finish Monaro Hwy - hasn't happened
1988	Unsworth Out
1989 - 90	Downgrading of hospital - maternity and theatre
1991	Wool Floor Price policy change- loss of confidence in the rural sector
1991	Toorallie Mill established - a long term positive for the town
1992	Bike show
1992	SEFA- didn't happen although signed the agreement
1992 - 97	Rural drought
1993	Wool and Wood festival on Australia Day- Wool Festival revamp to include timber
1993	Bombala and District Development Assn- formed to look at the future of strong shopping center and good streetscape- no funding. Working towards getting Mainstreet funding
1995-97	Declining population declining services
1995-97	Contractors reduced from 9 to 2, loss of 50-60 jobs and 17 trucks Flow-on effect eg. 2 clerks to 1 in solicitors office, real estate value declines
1995 - 97	Lack of CSR decision
1995	Fairground Organ Festival School Community Services festival Development of an identity as Platypus Country
1995	Promise of MDF Plant-300 jobs- hasn't happened
1995	Taxi service closed
1995	Blockade at Canberra - Carr elected
1996	Town lost two banks
1996	School amalgamated into one site
1997	Declaration of new National Parks
1997-99	Tablelands Mill will leave 26 odd jobs and 10 houses, also 15 jobs in Cooma

3.4.2 Community Attachment to Bombala

it's friendly	lots of people own their own homes
very safe	security of community-same views
close knit	great co-operation
its a great community	very caring
close to all facilities- within two hours you can see all and more than Tasmania	we're losing people who are not being replaced, can't afford to lose anyone
supportive	welcoming to newcomers
its a great place	cake stall averages $1000 every Friday
strong community prize fighter feeling, SEF a blow to the solar plexus not a K.O.	it's a close community, if something happens in the timber industry it effects everyone
very sad	it is in steep decline
recovery is community and peoples attitude	it's a good community that doesn't give in
it's a safe decent community with high standards	very optimistic but time is now critical
close knit but rural decline, forests, some fragmentation	I wish we had more people prepared to do something
tentative optimism- cycle, softwood	we have outside drivers, local had same opportunity

3.4.3 Visions for Bombala

300 full time jobs in the community	increase in tourism
10,000 people as a population base, getting together, working co-operatively, increased pride, benefits personally and socially	a humming community regardless of size, eg hospital ball, dollars going around, strong rural community
we're still saying positive things about our kids, now its astounding	need population growth for industry/ services
know you could find a job and also our kids - more secure	benefits that come from major company investing locally
Bombala with 20 yrs plan based on a better political climate	need population to maintain local shopping competition
growth of Toorallie industry	it's positive - committed to the use of softwood
short term problems	thinning as a major industry
future relies on softwood development which needs: improved roads multipurpose wharf at Eden decisions about use of softwood thinning usage	increase in agricultural productivity, possible diversification eg. lavender, farm forestry, goats
Prime Pine mill to grow	jobs for kids
reduced population- like to see it grow but being a realist	more professional jobs in town
infotech or hospitality jobs	some major industry
steady population not huge influx of outsiders for new jobs	

3.4.4 Responses of the workshop to Forest Use Options

INTERIM DEFERRED AREAS BECOME AVAILABLE FOR INDUSTRY USES

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
biggest positive for town psychologically, one small win	loss control of our destiny
maintain jobs and services	loss of forests for future generations. Tablelands Mill will still move to the coast
locals are able to access local forests for firewood horses, recreation, 4WD, trailbikes	

maintain more trucks in the area

maintain town at level line, stop from going backwards and possibly go forward with new identity

maintain shops and businesses

DEFERRED AREAS BECOME AVAILABLE FOR CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
	loss of services eg. health, police, school teachers
	loss of industry viability
if governments feels guilty enough to make commitment to alternative industry	between 2-4 contractors & 8-10 trucks by Christmas i.e. 30 direct jobs
possibility of funds: MDF Pine processing underwrite investor	demographic decay so that those left are more needy, in the end there is not enough energy for the community to reinvent itself
reservation of flora and fauna	wildfire risk, take pine with it
	loss of families/population
	closure of shops/business
	no availability of sawn hardwood locally- direct cost
	closure of Tablelands Mill
	SF no longer managing flora and fauna
	loss of control of destiny
	Morale of town declines/depressed
	increasing crime rate and costs to Government to cover social disruption
	greater reliance on social security
	environmental impacts Overseas
	downgrade of hospital to medical centre
	timber imported from Overseas.
	years before softwood comes on. Sawlog upgrading now. 200,000 tonnes sustainable by 2018 based on current use for 20 years. (Pressure at the moment to amalgamate voluntarily)
	fewer Govt people, much younger, less qualified people. Becomes a training ground then they go.
	increase in feral animals and weeds
	more compensation costs
	less access for local use

50% Deferred areas become National Park
50% Deferred areas become available for industry use

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
still has to be better than losing it al	belief that its just a lead up to another loss eg bad for psychology of town - just take it away for habitat or whatever/ filter strips may fall below industry viability just compounding losses

3.4.5 Focus Group

A structured focus group was held with members of the Bombala and District Development Association to obtain further information on future industry or strategic potential which may mitigate or enhance the vitality of the community.

The group provided little input than the community worlshop for possible alternative options. Concern was expressed by the group at CSR's failure to fulfil the terms of their contract and the State Government's lack of enforcement of the "take or pay" clause in regard to the local softwood resource.

The local population and business community reported on its struggle to maintain the status quo in terms of employment, retail and trade. It was suggested that the numbers in the forestry industry work force have been gradually declining over the past few years and that this was having an effect on all facets of the community.

The focus group explored any potential infrastructure thresholds and gave the Primary School as one example of the difficulties the community is facing in maintaining current infrastructure levels. The school is currently in danger of dropping below its current rating due to low students numbers, which will result in staff reductions. The school is currently under review and will be reclassified if student numbers do not increase meaning a loss of teachers and management restructuring with the Principal taking classes.

Limited input was received from the group for non-forest related industry options for the community in place of forest industries. Those mentioned included; a wool processing plant to link with Toorallie Woollen Mill, vineyards/wineries, special events weekends such as the motorcycle show, tourism as a secondary industry which will develop if the community increases in size and becomes more vibrant.

Whilst these options were presented there was no operational strategic plan for the community's future. The focus group seemed resigned to the fact that the community needed a good hardwood industry outcome or it would die.

Hardwood plantations were not considered a viable option for the region due to the loss of prime agricultural land and the concerns over ability to harvest these plantations in future with changing legislation over native habitat areas.

There was general consensus that the current pine plantations were not being managed to fulfil quality sawlog potential. Inadequate thinning and use of inferior seed stock in the early 1980's has reduced the quality of the available pine.

3.5 CASE STUDY AREA - EDEN

3.5.1 History of Settlement

Eden is the closest NSW coastal regional centre to the northern Victorian border and is located on a northern headland overlooking Twofold Bay. The town is flanked north and south by the Ben Boyd National Park and to the west, the Mt Imlay National Park. Eden was named after a farm which once existed in the area.

The development of Eden is closely tied to the enterprises of the Englishman Ben Boyd, who arrived in Sydney Town in 1842. Boyd had foreseen the possibility of colonial expansion before he left London, and established The Royal Bank of Australia. He then acquired several large runs in the Monaro country, envisaging the potential of Twofold Bay for trade and transportation.
Boyd installed a fleet of nine whaling ships, and began building the lighthouse and the township of Boydtown. In the 1840s the New South Wales Government established the official township of Eden on the northern shore of the bay, in opposition to Boydtown. The first building to be erected at Eden was a small slab and bark hut, close to the present day wharf. In 1847 the first Post Office was opened, as was the Customs House in 1848.

Whaling constituted the main economy of Twofold Bay in the nineteenth century. Thomas Raine began whaling there as early as 1828. At the collapse of Boyd's empire, Alexander Davidson took over his operations, and subsequent generations of the Davidson family continued to successfully whale at Eden for the next 80 years.

3.5.2 Population

In 1996, the population of Eden was 3,106 (ABS 1996). This level is similar to that of the 1981 ABS Census when the population was recorded as 3,107 (Margules, EIS 1996). The median age of the population is in the town is 35 years.

There is a significant community of Aboriginal and Torrese Strait Islanders living in Eden and surrounds. The Eden Local Aboriginal land Council has been successful in obtaining funding to build a 'Keeping Place' which it is intended will become a significant cultural focus for local Aboriginal people as well as tourists. A separate report has been written to describe the social issues raised by the Aboriginal communities in the Eden CRA Region.

Eden Selected Characteristics (ABS 1996)

	Male	Female	Persons
Total persons	1,555	1,551	3,106
Aged 15 years and over	1,172	1,184	2,356
Aboriginal	80	66	146
Torres Strait Islander	0	0	0
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander(b)	6	6	12
Australian born	1,303	1,295	2,598
Born Overseas:			
Canada, Ireland, NZ, South Africa, UK(c) and USA	90	95	185
Other country(d)	77	71	148
Total	*167*	*166*	*333*
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	1,330	1,309	2,639
Speaks language other than English(e) and aged 5 years and over	48	52	100
Australian citizen	1,439	1,438	2,877
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	1,011	1,023	2,034
Unemployed	98	53	151
Employed	688	516	1204
In the labour force	786	569	1355
Not in the labour force	338	563	901
Unemployment Rate	12.5%	9.3%	11.1%
Enumerated in private dwellings	1,505	1,504	3,009
Enumerated in non-private dwellings	51	49	100
Overseas visitor	3	8	11

3.5.3 Industry by Employment

Approximately 14% of employment in the Eden region is based on the primary sector including agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining (ABS 1996). Taking into account the dependence of the manufacturing sector on the primary sector, nearly one job in four is based on the natural resources of the region (EIS 1994).

While an increase in tourism also accompanied and encouraged earlier growth, the industrial development associated with the woodchip industry is reported to have been directly attributable to 90% of new businesses opened in Eden since the commencement of the mill (EIS 1986).

Eden is presently one of the most important fishing ports on the eastern coast of Australia. Fleets of trawlers occupy the waters once ruled by the whalers. Most of the large variety of fish caught are sent to the Fish Markets of Melbourne and Sydney. A substantial processing industry provides a focus for the fleet and the towns emplyment.

Whale watching has recently become a major attraction of Eden. The Eden Killer Whale Museum, established in 1931, contains extensive history of the region, as well as the skeleton of Eden's famous killer whale "Old Tom".

Thirty whaling boats operated from Twofold Bay in the mid 1800's and many legacies of this industry are evident in the area. The Eden Whale Festival, held each year to celebrate its connection with whales, recently received $15,000 in funding under the State Government’s Regional Flagship Program. (September 1997)

The unemployment rate in Eden in 1996 for males was 12.5% and females, 9.3 %, taking into account the male participation rate in the workforce of 70% and the female participation rate of 50%, both higher than the Shire average of 62% and 44% respectively. (ABS 1996).

3.5.4 Employment by Occupational Category in Eden

As the following table indicates, between 1986 and 1991, the number of professionals and para professionals decreased, as well as tradespersons, clerks, plant and machine operators, and drivers (ABS).

Occupation	**1986** Eden	**1991** Eden	**1996** Eden
Managers and Administrators	141	161	63
Professionals	83	74	95
Para-Professionals	61	54	157
Tradespersons	188	171	154
Clerks	155	134	168
Salespersons and Personal Service Workers	170	182	177
Plant and Machine Operators and Drivers	185	144	87
Labourers and Related Workers	392	391	198
Other categories			15
Total	1049	1311	1149

Source: ABS

3.5.5 Income

Approximately 50% of the population earn between $2,000 and $26,000 per annum, spread relatively evenly over this range (ABS 1996). High income earners (over $50,000 per annum) make up approximately two per cent of the population and has not increased since 1991. The median weekly individual income is between $200 - $299 and the median weekly household income is $500 - $699.

3.5.6 Infrastructure

Housing

Home ownership has increased since 1986 from 24% to approximately 32% in 1996 (ABS 1997). Houses being purchased remained at a fairly stable percentage from 1991 to 1996 at about 20 %. Between 1986 and 1991, the percentage of population renting housing increased from about one per cent to just over 10 % where it remains in 1996. Over the same period, the percentage of population paying greater than $138 rent per week has decreased from approximately 27% in 1986 to 10% in 1996.

Education

Eden has a State Primary School with an enrolment of 357 in 1997 and employs 11 - 12 teaching staff and 1- 2 supplemenatry staff. Eden Primary qulaifies for a Community Assistance Program (CAP), a program designed to assit rural and isolated schools. This program has recently co-ordinated a community needs analysis.
The Eden High School is accredited as a Marine Technology High School and caters for 790 students in 1997. It has a large feeder area and includes Merimbula and Pambula as well as the outlying villages and hamlets around Eden.
In addition, St Josephs provides primary school education for 160 students and has a staff number of approximately 9 teaching and up to 4 ancillary staff. Studnet numbers have declined from over 190 in 1992.

Health

There are two doctors in Eden, The Eden District Hospital is an aged care and day care facility. Residents of Eden travel to Pambula Hopsital for most hospital admissions. Eden also has a community health centre staffed by community health from the Pambula centre. Staff include Aboriginal Health, drug and alcohol counselling, child health anbd a variety of other services.

Retail and Trade

Eden has recetly upgraded its Main Street , flag pole, historic signage and town walk infrastructure.
There were almost 392 retail and trade listings in Eden in the 1997 database ‘Australia on Disc’. The Community services directory published by the Bega Valley Shire lists some 45 voluntary and/or special interest organisations.

Communications
The Eden community is served by the Eden Magnet newspaper and the Eden Foundation newsletter, the latter being sponsored by the recenlty formed Eden Foundation.

3.5.7 Annual Events

The Annual Whale Festival is one of the largest annual events sponsored by a voluntary management committee made up of community representatives.

3.6 OUTCOMES OF EDEN COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Held: Tuesday, 25 February 1997

3.6.1 Significant Events

Date	Event
1980 (mid)	Fishing licences restricted
1982	Shire amalgamations (Imlay Shire with Bega Valley Shire)
1983	Fishing wharf additions and upgrade started
1988	Operation Redgum started - this was a large conservation campaign
1988	Sports field built through fund raising
1990 (early)	Community fundraising for Nullica Lodge, a retirement village
1991	Upgrade of wharf completed
1992	Building of Catholic Church completed
1992 &1995	Eden won the Footy Final
1993	New Whale Museum built
1995	Town closure to protest in Canberra (Timber blockade)
1995	Election of Carr Government
1995	Nullica Lodge - retirement complex for the elderly
1996	Closure of Duncans Mill with a loss of jobs
1996	Reduction from 2 shift to one in Harris Daishowa Mill as a result of restrictions to export licence
1996	Victorian laws changed to allow poker machines - this affected Eden’s tourist industry
1996	Cannery lost 50% of its workers
1996	Marine Tech High School started
1996	Whale Festival started to promote whale watching tourism
1997	New National Park and Wilderness declared

3.6.2 Community Attachment Eden

Saw mill closure meant “end of world’, the fight has gone out of the community	change has occurred to safety of community with increase in crime
supports from adults to children is fantastic	good core of ‘prime movers’ to initiate change
concern about unemployment	town will survive but may be different
strong work ethic exists	loss of fun - lack of involvement in sport
lack of empowerment to take opportunities	community will work together to overcome problems
Community positive but concern about loss of population, ageing and shift to welfare	no future here for young people, lack of jobs gives a sense of hopelessness
potential for growth; good support for all people	noticeable shift in welfare dependency and need for all types of support services
proud to be part of community	great community to raise children
pessimistic about replacement industry	need to fight smarter - can do it
negative about future of young people	community support still exists

3.6.3 Visions for Eden

Return to what we had before	An airport
Multipurpose wharf	To use wharf for export import
Meaningful jobs agriculture armaments depot pulp mill recovery mill 2 shifts at HDA Boydtown marina	Tourism ships highlight beauty of the area Koori contribution
Viable timber industry	be included on major transport route
Development of pine processing in Bombala	promote Aboriginal culture
improve roads	access to natural gas pipeline
development of 'youthland' (TNT)	

3.6.4 Reaction to Forest Use Options

Deferred areas become available for industry use

The increased chance of the establishment of a recovery mill in Eden was identified by most participants as a positive impact from this option. In addition, the retention of logging crews and the flow-on effects to town were also seen positively. Other positives were an improvement in morale, faith in government processes and potential throughput at a port. A mistrust of government was seen as a negative impact of this option by a similar level of workshop participants.

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
Increased chances of recovery mill	Mistrust of government
Flow-on effect to town	Extra effort by conservation movement
Retain four logging crews	
Faith in Government processes	
$6.4million through port	
Morale improve in town	
Increased self esteem	
Maintain community services	
May allow second shift at HDA	
Final decision made	
More sporting participation	

Listed in the order ranked by the participants in the workshop

DEFERRED AREAS BECOME AVAILABLE FOR CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
Possible increase in tourism	Fire hazard
Final decision made - no more worry	Lose four logging crews
Increase in PR by National Parks	Mistrust of Government
Possible protection of flora and fauna	Anti social problems
	Community services in doubt
	Feral animals and weeds
	Flow on effects to towns of fewer jobs
	Greens will move on to next target
	Cost of funding parks

Listed in the order ranked by the participants in the workshop

50% Deferred areas become available for conservation and recreation
50% Deferred areas become available for industry use

A small number of participants identified as a positive impact, a final decision had been reached, and some jobs may be saved. A negative impact as a result of this option would be an increased mistrust of government.

Positive Impact	**Negative Impacts**
Some jobs saved	Mistrust of Government
Final decision	

3.7 CASE STUDY AREA - COBARGO

3.7.1 History of settlement

Cobargo is situated upon the Princess Highway between Narooma and Bega.

The cattle station owner of Braidwood, William Duggan Tarlinton, is credited as the first European to inhabit the Cobargo district. He explored the area in 1829 and returned in the early 1830s to select land. He officially gained both squatting and grazing licenses in 1837 and 1838 respectively.

As interest in the Cobargo district increased, one pastoralist Alexander Imlay, obtained a squatting license for a station he called "Cobargo".

During the 1860s, the proliferation of wattle in the region featured as a profitable exploit for the developing settlement. Wattle bark was utilised in the tanning and treatment of leather, and a lucrative market existed in the larger colony. By the 1870s, dairy farming consolidated itself, with locally produced butter and cheese finding markets in Sydney.

In 1871 a school was opened with 37 students. The township at that time consisted of a post office, store, hotel, blacksmiths shop and several bushman's huts. In 1887 a School of Arts building was erected to house a collection of books and periodicals. The first Cobargo Show was held on the 3rd and 4th of April, 1889.

3.7.2 Population

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS COBARGO (ABS)

	Male	Female	Persons
Total persons	188	209	397
Aged 15 years and over	131	157	288
Aboriginal	5	10	15
Torres Strait Islander	0	0	0
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander(b)	0	0	0
Australian born	166	176	342
Born Overseas:			
Canada, Ireland, NZ, South Africa, UK(c) and USA	9	14	23
Other country(d)	9	11	20
Total	*18*	*25*	*43*
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	163	183	346
Speaks language other than English(e) aged 5 years & over	6	8	14
Australian citizen	183	199	382
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	122	138	260
Unemployed	98	53	151
Employed	688	516	1204
In the labour force	786	569	1355
Not in the labour force	338	563	901
Unemployment Rate	12.5%	9.3%	11.1%

Enumerated in private dwellings	187	209	396
Enumerated in non-private dwellings	0	0	0
Overseas visitor	0	0	0

3.7.3 Industry by Employment

In 1996, the unemployment rate in Cobargo for males was 17.2% and females, 13.1% both significantly higher than the Shire average of 13.8% and 10.9% respectively (ABS). There was a decrease in the number of managers and administrators, and tradespersons between 1986 and 1991 (ABS), and the number of professionals, paraprofessionals and labourers increased during the same period.

Employees by industry (1996)

Agriculture forestry and fishing	12
Mining	0
Manufacturing	10
Electricity Gas and Water Supply	3
Construction	15
Wholesale Trade	3
Retail Trade	27
Accommodation cafes and restaurants	17
Transport and Storage	6
Communication Services	3
Finance and Insurance	3
Property and Business Services	3
Govt Admin and Defence	6
Education	0
Health and Community Services	12
Culture and Recreation Services	0
Personal and Other services	3
Non-classifiable economic units	0
Not stated	6
Total	129

3.7.4 Income

Income levels have remained fairly constant over the last ten years. Around 55% of the population earn between $2,000 and $26,000 per annum (ABS).

3.7.5 Infrastructure

The Cobargo Primary School has approximately 180 students and 5-7 teaching staff.
There was a decrease in the level of home ownership from 53% of the population in 1986 to 35% in 1991(ABS). The median age in the town is 35 years. the median income in the town is $160 - $199 and the median weekly household income is $300 - $499.

3.8 OUTCOMES OF COBARGO COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Held: March 1997

3.8.1 Significant events in Cobargo

1952	drought, last big fires
1968	drought
1969	opening of swimming pool. Because of drought farmers employed to help build pool on the red scheme
1971	huge flood, washed away 28 bridges in the Shire
1979	new retirement village opened
1979-80	Amalgamation of shire into Bega Valley Shire
late 70’s	close of butter factory and three sawmills
early 80’	influx of new people to area - contributed to cultural change
1984	Tarred road between Bermagui and Cobargo
1992	Landcare groups form in the area
1992	two large floods in one year up to one in 25 year level
1994	total catchment management committee and local estuary management infrastructure
1994	closure of Westpac Bank
1994	folk festival
1996	retirement village stage 2 extensions
1996	new pre school built
1996	100 years of Catholic Church
1996	Cobargo’s 100th annual show ,and town reunion

1997	school 125 years anniversary

3.8.2 Community Responses to Two Events

Positive Response : Yuin Folk Festival
The idea came from a local, similar to Jambaroo festival
Called a local meeting to discuss, about 10-12 people came from flyers, radio and newspaper adds
1997 was its second year. It was held all over town in local halls and cafes
Entertainment people were contacted through other folk festivals
Aimed at a variety of people, musicians, poets, story tellers, children's specials
Five hundred primary school children were bussed in and 300 senior citizens came in buses
General community did not really support or oppose, although the second festival was more supported by locals
In the first year, voluntary organisations raised a lot of money, in the second year, the shops did better.
Some problems with parking which affected local trade
The show ground was open to camping
It was great for the atmosphere of the town.

Negative Response: Loss of Bank
The community organised petitions
Announcements with less than a months notice
Westpac was under financial pressure plus local staff member breach of confidentiality
Last 20 years changes in banking, going to happen anyway
Did not affect many as most business was done out of town
Perception was worst than reality - we only lost one family from the town
Elderly people most affected, they now go to the Post Office for banking
There were fears and rumours that we would also lose the Police, Post Office etc

3.8.3 Community Attachment to Cobargo

Changes in the last ten years with alternate lifestyle people, its a bit divided
friendly accepting of 'me' as a new comer
Welcoming, supportive, extremely divergent and stimulating but everyone takes part in the community caring
Generous, welcoming. I have met people through Landcare although there is a wariness of greens. Very tolerant with each other.
Older residents finding it harder to accept change
Works well, new and old seem generally accepting, although newer residents stick closer together.
It still works well on non environmental issues
Get on well with new and old, some resistance to changes, for examples land care and water quality, slow process for acceptance
You will be well accepted if you don't rock the boat. If you've got something to offer, you will be recognised
Some people don't want the Government telling them what to do

Cobargo has a background as a self help community and has a feeling of disadvantage. For example, Bermagui gets the tourist money, we have to fight for things and do it ourselves. We don't suffer from coastal inertia. Older members sometimes suspicious of outsiders
Enjoy working with young and old to understand how they think. It's important to be that way and to help all, regardless of their views. Some people are difficult, but generally people are their to help if anything is needed.
It's an accepting community, vibrant community minded, takes part in many activities, heaps of sporting clubs for its size, active and involved.

3.8.4 Visions for the Future

- Remain a nice sleepy town, not too slick, like to keep it a bit 'daggy'
- to stay a human town self supporting, not to get too big
- keep as it is, but also need small industry to keep young people in town, for example, small clothing factory, cottage industry, nursery
- very proud as it is
- look to future of town to grow sufficiently to support everyone eg farms now only support one family rather than three or four
- Educational opportunities in the are rather than having to leave for uni, TAFE, training and job opportunities
- Fear unless small industry, then the make up of the community is under threat, presently people can afford to live here simply and cheaply
- A necessity for small industry to support local trade
- A good tourist town close to the coast

3.8.5 Reaction to Changes in Forest Use

Deferred areas become available for industry use

Positive Impact	**Negative Impacts**
More money, more jobs	Has a negative impact on water quality
effective fire control	A lot of unhappy people protesting
Ecotourists wouldn't trespass on private land	Possible loss of population
Industry happy	Sawnwood might cost more eg fenceposts and firewood
Other small industry uses bush tucker, special species and oils in Cobargo	

Listed in the order ranked by the participants in the workshop

Deferred Areas become National Park

Positive Impact	**Negative Impacts**
Wildlife corridor in Murrah	Fear of fire risk for Cobargo, access and subdivisions lack of effective control
Reduction in log trucks on our roads	Lack of resource for mills, Bega Mill has gone from 10 to 2 jobs, possible loss of businesses
Adjoining private, potential for ecotourism	Feral animals and noxious weeds
More jobs in NPWS	Access for horses, motor cycles, ecotourists etc limited
More tourism	Lack of fencepost availability for rural industry, may be more wanted later
Less environmental degradation	Lobbying needed for better fire control
Fire natural process for germination	Fuel load increases due to lack of burnoff with loss of animal life
conservation movement happy	Loss of jobs, six small businesses in the main street of Cobargo
Biodiversity	Loss of apiary beekeeping industry sites
wood will cost more, as it should and therefore money into the local community	Ecotourists may trespass on private land

Listed in the order ranked by the participants in the workshop

50% Deferred areas become available for conservation and recreation
50% Deferred areas become available for industry use

Positive	Negative
Provides a chance for farms to move into farm forestry	No-one is satisfied
Compromise for everybody	
Through compromise, development of better management systems eg logging around towns and reservations further out	

Listed in the order ranked by the participants in the workshop

3.8.6 Additional Issues raised by participants

- Logs should stay local for spotmillers and not go to Eden chipmill. Local mills can't get logs
- NPWS should put enough staff on to manage the area properly
- Where will NPWS be funded from for management
- Upgrade and finance fire service
- Loss of jobs may be through chip instead of sawlog
- Price of timber artificially low therefore less money for saw mills, putting g price up could increase farm forestry. Boral controls price through softwood monopoly
- Not a lot of effect on Cobargo
- Cobargo at the top of the area so suffers effects from north of the Eden region
- Funds should be available for community hardship
- Moving industry from mixed species to plantations

3.9 CASE STUDY AREA - WONBOYN LAKE

3.9.1 History of settlement

Wonboyn Lake, just south of Eden, is a small community predominantly dependent on fishing (oyster farming), forestry and tourism. Wonboyn has historically been a popular recreational fishing spot for many anglers, mainly from Victoria. In 1996, the population of Wonboyn Lake was 85. Approximately 27% of the population are over 50 years of age.

3.9.2 Population

The population of Wonboyn Lake is 85 persons in 1996. A change to census boundaries makes comparisons n trends unavailable.

3.9.3 Industry and Employment

The unemployment rate in Wonboyne Lake increased from 16.4% in 1986 to 20.2% in 1991 (ABS). In 1996, the male unemployment rate was 21.7% and the female unemployment rate was 30%. The percentage of the population below the age of 19, and those between 30 and 44 years, who are living in a couple family situation is approximately 31 %. The median age in the town is 44 years.

3.9.4 Income

Income levels have remained fairly stable for residents of Wonboyne Lake across all income levels for the last ten years. Approximately 50% of the population earn between $2,000 and $26,000 per annum. Approximately 25% of the population fall at the lower end of that scale earning between $2,000 and $8,300 per annum (ABS). the median weekly individual income is $200 - $299 and the median weekly household income is $300 - $499.

3.9.5 Infrastructure

Home ownership has remained stable throughout the last ten years at approximately 38% (ABS). The percentage of the population renting increased slightly in the period between 1986 and 1996 from 12.5 % to 15 %.
A school bus transports children to Eden schools. The Shire provides a mobile library.

The community of Wonboyn Lake centres around the community store and local Bushfire Brigade. As noted in the community workshops, the community has taken its own initiative in providing tourist infrastructure to sustain the levels of visitation by fishermen.

Many residents in the community of Wonboyne Lake have been involved in defining the impacts to the community of the declaration of the Nadgee area as wilderness in 1994. Specifically, the closure of an access road to "Newtons Beach", one of the high visitation sites for recreational fishermen has been high on the community agenda.

3.10 OUTCOMES OF WONBOYN LAKE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

3.10.1 Significant Events in Wonboyn Lake.

1967	Opening of the General Store
1969	Logging began in local area
1971	Major floods and fire (last serious fire in 1980)
1980	New subdivision
1980 -90	Population increase by approximately 100%, decrease in people under the age of 40.
1980 (early 80's)	Proposal for water scheme, however conflict over where to source the water between the community and NPWS, once agreement was reached the cost was prohibitive and therefore scheme did not go ahead.
1990 (early)	The School bus began servicing Wonboyn
1990 (early)	Community opposition to Green Cape Developments Subdivision - a major tourist development - by the community.
1992	New boat ramp and park facilities constructed by the community
1994	Identification of Nadgee wilderness area.
1994	Beach beautification - good dialogue between the community and NPWS to keep the beach beautiful.
1995	Library van began 3 weekly visits to Wonboyn
1995	Construction of new fire shed commenced
1995	Main road bitumened through village
1995	Work on cemetery and the rubbish tip carried out by the community, eg fencing, plants
1995	New subdivision
1996	Decision to declare wilderness.
1996	New public toilet
1996	Oyster industry boomed
1996	Formation of the Lake Management Committee

3.10.2 Community responses to two major events.

- **Positive: Construction of boat ramp.**
- Initiated by Wonboyn Rate Payer's Association.
- Whole community worked together to complete a project worth $200,000 for a community cost of $2,000.
- Involved all people in town.
- Activities included felling trees, planting, laying paths, major earthworks, concrete mat, sawing timber for tables and benches, BBQs, building new catwalk and specialised oyster ramp.
- Ratepayer's Association provided petrol and earthmoving machinery, while the community provided vehicles, trailers etc.
- Trees were donated by HDA, State Forests and the community.
- Some minor conflict between old-time regular visitors who didn't want the area to change or develop, frightened it may became too popular and lose it's unique qualities. Some locals were also concerned about disturbance to local bird and animal habitat. However, once the grass and shrubs were established, everyone generally, was happy with the result.
- Last Christmas the new facilities were being used to full capacity.

Negative. **Declaration of Wilderness**

- The entire community was involved in writing submissions on the declaration, and in total approximately 3000 submissions were received (including from visitors to the area). NPWS stated that the submissions were of a high quality.
- This issue drew the community together to respond.
- The community felt they were 'sold out' by the State Government and that the decision was fait accompli. Rumours were circulating that the Government was going to declare the area wilderness regardless of community responses.
- The community felt disempowered through not having the 'votes'.
- Local support from within the region was reported as phenomenal. At a family day gathering at Newton's' Beach, community representatives including the council, rural community, NPWS, local environmental activists, students etc were unanimous in their support against the wilderness declaration.
- The communities main issue was access to Newton's beach if wilderness was confirmed. While most were not against wilderness declaration per se, they wanted to retain access to the beach.
- However, the community experienced conflict regarding the most appropriate response strategy. Some community members were willing to partake in letter writing etc, however were not prepared to actively protest and wished to avoid more serious conflict.
- The community chose a strategy to call for a 'corridor' to allow access through the wilderness area, and not protest about the wilderness declaration itself, however some community members now feel this was a mistake.
- Aboriginal community members are concerned that access to burial sites, intellectual property such as bush tucker, traditional medicines, etc is threatened. They were not consulted regarding the declaration and seek to retain access to the area. The Koori communities rights to custodial recognition and ability to manage the sites is not a threat to the wilderness area, but could be incorporated within its management.
- Community representative met with the State Government Minister for the Environment, however felt dissatisfied with the outcome of those discussions.

3.10.3 Community Attachment to Wonboyn Lake

- Ability to achieve working together.
- Feels very divided at the moment.
- The community itself is marvellous !
- Very special township and environment
- Hospitable, take a lot of pride in the town.
- Could pull together and achieve, however current problems need to heal which will take time.
- Great !
- Great - lots of room for improvement, with people working together.
- Divided community.
- Beach is good place to be.
- Wilderness issue divided town far more than before, and don't know how to repair the pain.
- Community would work better if people minded their own business more
- Community is responsive to issues which affect the community.
- Everyone's heart is in the right place, however, lack of communication and misunderstandings led to conflict. Need to talk more together about the issue and could get further.
- Disappointed the town is divided, pining for the days of 1992 when the community worked together to build the boat ramp and facilities.
- Feels everyone is capable, wishes weren't so divided, could get together and let bygones be bygones.
- Need more communication to develop the best outcome for everyone.

3.10.4 Visions for Wonboyne Lake

- Maintain this special place (environment).
- Develop so that everyone works well together, businesses, fishing, tourism, oyster industry.
- Recognise community's progression and development along orderly lines in conjunction with environmental concerns.
- Environment remains the biggest asset
- Long term employment opportunities through timber industry, eco-tourism, fishing industry, wilderness tours, with access.
- Problem that forest has not been managed well due to quality of forest management suggest "tearing down and planting pines".

• Better forest management scheme • Build tennis courts, sporting facilities, something for the kids to get involved locally. • Enhance opportunities for kids in town, to remain and work in the future.

3.10.5 Reaction to Changes in Forest Use

Deferred Areas become available for Industry Uses

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
Help depressed economy in Eden and therefore flow ons to Wonboyn	Threat of wrong type of development could take place, still need community involvement in management of development
Employment for young people	
Maintain more desirable species eg turpentine for oyster industry	
Retain access to hardwood for building, not have to go to Bairnsdale for supplies	
Morale boost for timber industry, feel that city/country balance needs improving	

Deferred Areas become available for Conservation and Recreation

Positive	Negative
	Loss of employment security
More tourists	Waste of economic resources lost to fire etc
	Tranquillity of Wonboyn at risk because of depressed state of Eden, eg Green Cape Development may go ahead due to Eden's vulnerability.
	Flow-on of lost jobs to affect family life, loan repayments, wife/children under increased emotional pressure to make ends meet.
	Flow on low of investment/wages from Eden reductions
	Loss of population - leads to schooling reductions
	Increase costs of service due to travel/transport increases
	Loss of small mills in area
	Fear it won't be managed
	Perception of increased fire risk
	More competition for jobs effect Koori community even more severely
	Loss of services from flow-on
	Concern about access for bushwalking
	Family depression - needs for counselling
	Lower self esteem - individuals and the community
	Makes some forest areas (eg 2313, 2315) less economically viable for harvesting

50% for industry and 50% for Conservation and Recreation

Positive
Ensure that infrastructure design for economic harvest can be achieved
More of a chance of getting it right

3.10.6 Other Issues

Any restructuring money, natural environment and natural resources should favour local people
Lack of consultation and information with local groups over wilderness declaration
Access for Koori cultural tours and all the above effects the Koori community
City people making decisions impacting on rural and regional areas and people who live there.
Access for Koori community to sacred sites/burial grounds
Lack of consultation with Koori community
Closure of Newton's beach - threat to tourist draw
Need some balance back in the debate.
Why does Victoria have access to wilderness areas and not NSW, it's all one country
Governments need to take social issues into account
Restricted, regulated and dictated, consultation after the fact, after land tenure was already decided

Politicians and Government's need to visit these regions to see for themselves, some Sydney people think clearfelling is still occurring, media misrepresents the situation regularly.

3.11 CASE STUDY AREA - PAMBULA

3.11.1 History of settlement

The name 'Pambula' is derived from the Yuin Aboriginal Tribe meaning "two waters". The township is located 1km from its main beach and is rich in history dating back to the 1850s, when gold was once discovered in the Pambula Goldfields.

3.11.2 Population

In 1996, the population of Pambula was 1,045. Most people below the are below the age of 19, and those between 30 and 44 years are living in a couple family situation and make up approximately 40 % of the population. Another 31% of the population is over 50 years of age and living in various family situations. The median age level in the town is 37 years.

3.11.3 Pambula Selected Characteristics (ABS)

	Male	Female	Persons
Total persons	489	556	1,045
Aged 15 years and over	374	433	807
Aboriginal	6	5	11
Torres Strait Islander	0	0	0
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander(b)	0	0	0
Australian born	420	475	895
Born Overseas:			
Canada, Ireland, NZ, South Africa, UK(c) and USA	35	34	69
Other country(d)	17	19	36
Total	*52*	*53*	*105*
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	409	443	852
Speaks language other than English& aged 5 years &over	9	10	19
Australian citizen	456	509	965
Unemployed	35	21	56
Employed	212	181	393
In the labour force	247	202	449
Not in the labour force	121	219	340
Unemployment Rate	14.2%	10.4%	12.5%
Enumerated in private dwellings	465	514	979
Enumerated in non-private dwellings	24	42	66
Overseas visitor	0	3	3

3.11.4 Industry and Employment

The following table gives an overview of the employment by industry in the township of Pambula

Agriculture forestry and fishing	25
Mining	0
Manufacturing	29
Electricity Gas and Water Supply	6
Construction	28
Wholesale Trade	21
Retail Trade	55
Accommodation cafes and restaurants	61
Transport and Storage	17
Communication Services	6
Finance and Insurance	9

Property and Business Services	6
Govt Admin and Defence	11
Education	23
Health and Community Services	52
Culture and Recreation Services	6
Personal and Other services	6
Non-classifiable economic units	0
Not stated	12
Total	373

3.11.5 Income

Income levels have remained constant in Pambula during the last 10 years and in 1996, approximately 55% of the population had a per annum income of between $ 2,000 and $26,000. The median weekly income level for the town is between $200 - $299, while median household income is $300 - $499. The unemployment rate in Pambula has increased from 9.7% in 1986 to 12.5% in 1991 and remained at 12.5 in 1996 (ABS). male unemployment is 14.2 in 1996 (ABS)

3.11.6 Infrastructure

The main street of Pambula has recently undergone a beautification program. Weekly markets provide a focus for the tourism activities on weekends and holidays, complementing the wholesale, transport and light industrial activities of the town.

The level of home ownership is high and has increased from around 34% in 1986 to about 40% in 1996 (ABS). The proportion of houses being purchased has fallen to around 26% in 1996 after being about 34% in 1991 (ABS).

Almost half the population lived at the same address five years ago.

There has been an increase in the number of managers and administrators, and sales persons and personal service workers, and para professionals. Decreases have occurred amongst professionals, tradespersons, plant operators and labourers (ABS). In 1996 the proportion of Managers and Professional to Trade and Related employment was 119 to 266 (.53)

3.11.7 Annual Events

The Pambula show has a high local profile.

3.12 OUTCOMES OF PAMBULA COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Held: 4th March 1997

3.12.1 Significant Events

last 10 years	Recession - loss of jobs - restructuring Government Departments Timber industry restructured
1957	Swimming Pool fundraising started by community Now led to multi purpose sports complex
1970	Eden High School opened
1972	Chipmill brought increased population and better services
1978	New Hospital
1985	Development of sports ground and Showground moved there
1988	Declaration of National Parks State Government changed
1988	Crash in stockmarket lead to loss of proposed develop Victorian economy downturn effected across the border
1989	Pambula markets started
1990	First restructure - SEFA signed Hawke/Griener

1993	Pambula Progress Assoc (PAPPA) formed
1994	Poker machines in Victoria
1994	Annual Food Frolic started
1995	Builders effected - having to move
1995	Landcare and Dunecare formed
1996	National Park declaration -Premier Carr indicated National Park in election promises - effected timber industry. Duncan's lost 23 jobs - Multiplier effect on jobs
1996	Loss flowed onto Pambula businesses - 10 - 12 recent empty shops Loss of investment in the area over many years and further effected by recent National Park announcement.
1996	Loss of road funding - 3x3 redirected to Olympics Loss of jobs on road crews
1996	Mainstreet committee formed Street beautification in heritage style - planning for what community wants
1996	Waterbirds sanctuary - donated land must stay for that purpose

3.12.2 Community Responses to Two Events

- **Positive** : Building of the Pambula Sporting Complex
- Fundraising started at Top Pub - a few people got together
- Developed over a period of time by various committees
- Disagreement on size and style of swimming pool required
- Big commitment to raising money - raffles etc
- Secured land by producing concept plan - Crown land
- Cricket club was involved in approaching council (and other)
- Government grants, first to show society and other grants and big public response (financially and enthusiasm) 12 years ago
- Had to keep pushing on and get grants
- People working together, Pambula people do like to get involved.

- **Negative** : Timber Industry resource supply
- Forestry coexisted with dairy until European Market formed
- Concern about loss of jobs and future jobs for young people
- Loss of people leading to loss of money
- Trying to look at other opportunities e.g. Tourism
- People are sitting up and participating in debate by forming groups (e.g. Wildart, Yowaka reserve Association TREES and communicating with other environment groups) Community are wanting to be part of decisions.
- Timber meetings - Union, Industry, etc. also have a say in future decisions and check job losses.
- Young people are leaving town/ moving interstate which is emotional for many
- Young people have been moving away for many years not just as a result of timber issues
- Lobbying Government through Canberra blockade
- Feeling that media is lopsided
- Mistrust of Government decision making
- Don't feel the map tells the true story
- Can't believe what Government is saying
- Shifting population due to looking for employment

3.12.3 Community Attachment to Pambula

Old fashion country community - great place
Pambula by choice - lovely people
Some families seventh generation, always been here, long history
Lovely community but a bit isolated- some disadvantages
very friendly, positive, mutually supportive
Quiet rural town, good place to live, lifestyle choice
I love it been here 50 years
Other than isolation- terrific

Bred and born here, just wish there was work here
Best country town on the coast
Love the climate, great place never want to leave
Grew up in the area-its home
Enjoy lifestyle worry about future of children
Came in 1973 in the building boom- some reluctance by some to accept tourism- and a little reluctance to accept outsiders
Live at Tura- worried about future my interest is in beekeeping
I live at Pambula Beach- comes to life seasonally- still getting to know people
I feel Passionate about my community- wants this area to come again as a big centre Easy to get on with people - a lovely area

3.12.4 Visions for Pambula

Like to see it become a unique heritage town, holding its beauty and unique past
Racecourse is relocating and ideas for the current site are needed. Potential for tourist facilities/wetlands/canoeing areas
Could see it as a gateway to the National parks
Show success and rodeo has future potential
Doing up the town with more bike and walking tracks to Pambula Beach
Development of other multi-purpose tracks
End of community conflict over forests
Concern for the future of hospital and employment
Eden wharf proposal may have some potential for the area
Potential for worm farming and alternative agriculture especially low establishment cost projects

3.12.5 Reaction to Changes in Forest Use

Deferred areas become available for industry use

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
Greater access for firefighting and forest workers involved in fire fighting maintained	Burnoffs continued which contributes to fire hazard
State Forests knows area and flora and fauna in the area	Less road funding from HDA
HDA community donations maintained	
Enough time to re-adjust to ecotourism and other industries	

Deferred Areas become available for conservation and recreation

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
Greater opportunities for ecotourism	reduced household incomes
Habitat provision for animals that would otherwise be missed	Loss of jobs, shop closures
Creation of National Park jobs eg in Bombala and Merimbula	Loss of revenue from State forests activities
User pays entry will raise revenue for National Parks	Less access for bee keepers affecting the million dollar potential for honey exports
Improved water quality	Loss of two jobs at Pambula Mill
Less logging trucks on roads therefore less damage to roads and less costs	Increase in feral flora and fauna
	Loss of value adding potential
	Limited vehicle access for older, incapacitated and young children due to track decline
	Cant look after land therefore bushfire threat (fire prone area)
	Less HDA road funding

50% Deferred areas become available for conservation and recreation
50% Deferred areas become available for industry use

No suggestions were made for this option from the workshop

3.13 CASE STUDY AREA - MERIMBULA

3.13.1 History of settlement

Merimbula is a coastal holiday and retirement town north of Eden. Local Indigenous language is attributed to the town's naming, which has been translated as both "big snake", and "two lakes".

The first European expedition through the Merimbula district occurred by default in 1797. Surviving sailors from the vessel "Sydney Cove" wrecked in Bass Strait, passed through the Merimbula coast in that year, during an arduous trek north to Sydney Cove. Of the seventeen who commenced the journey off the continent's south coast, only four reached Wattamolla Beach in south Sydney.

Merimbula is a well known holiday destination, particularly popular with Victorian tourists. Merimbula also has the local airport from which travellers and business people can fly daily to both Sydney and Melbourne. The airport is currently undergoing a refurbishment to cater more adequately to the needs of its passengers.

3.13.2 Population

In 1996 there were 3,864 people living in Merimbula (ABS). The median age in Merimbula is 50 years. In 1991 there were 4270 persons living in Merimbula.

	Male	Female	Persons
Total persons	1,837	2,027	3,864
Aged 15 years and over	1,549	1,754	3,303
Aboriginal	10	9	19
Torres Strait Islander	3	0	3
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander(b)	0	0	0
Australian born	1,513	1,659	3,172
Born Overseas:			
Canada, Ireland, NZ, South Africa, UK(c) and USA	175	202	377
Other country(d)	70	88	158
Total	*245*	*290*	*535*
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	1,620	1,776	3,396
Speaks language other than English(e) and aged 5 years and over	51	57	108
Australian citizen	1,690	1,852	3,542
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	1,370	1,553	2,923
Unemployed	93	58	151
Employed	695	568	1263
In the labour force	788	626	1414
Not in the labour force	715	1087	1802
Unemployment Rate	11.8%	9.3%	10.7%
Enumerated in private dwellings	1,585	1,704	3,289
Enumerated in non-private dwellings	252	323	575
Overseas visitor	11	3	14

Approximately 34% of dwellings are fully owned with 21% being purchased. The proportion of people paying rent between $138 - $197 per week decreased between 1991 and 1996, and increased for those paying rent between $78 and $137 per week.

3.13.3 Industry by employment:

The unemployment rate for Merimbula in 1991 was 10% increasing to 10.6% in 1996. Workforce participation was low at about 42%, in 1991 possibly a result of a higher than average population of retirees. In 1996, the participation rate had increased to 44%. The following table gives an overview of the employment by industry in Merimbula

Agriculture forestry and fishing	52
Mining	0
Manufacturing	79
Electricity Gas and Water Supply	3
Construction	93
Wholesale Trade	59
Retail Trade	225
Accommodation cafes and restaurants	247
Transport and Storage	33
Communication Services	18
Finance and Insurance	39
Property and Business Services	85
Govt Admin and Defence	21
Education	47
Health and Community Services	119
Culture and Recreation Services	30
Personal and Other services	56
Non-classifiable economic units	6
Not stated	27
Total	1239

3.13.4 Income

Individual income levels have remained relatively stable between 1991 and 1996. Just under 50% of the population earnt less than $16,000 and just under 30% earnt between $16,000 and $50,000 (ABS). The median weekly individual income is between $200 and $299 per week and the median weekly household income is $300 - $499.

3.14 OUTCOMES OF MERIMBULA COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Held: February 1997

3.14.1 Significant events in Merimbula

Date	Event
1957	Merimbula Bowling Club
1977	Tura Beach development
1977	Expansion of retirement village
1978	Development of tourist area
1980	Annual jazz festival started
1980 onwards	Merimbula follows the recession cycles of Victoria
1981	Main change, rapid growth of area
1981	Amalgamation of local government, three shires to one Bega Valley
1981	More real estate developments which attracted criticism of planning and aesthetics
1982	Change in sporting culture, Victorian influence with establishment of two AFL clubs
1982 - 83	New Merimbula fishing platform
1983 - 84	Magic Mountain development
1986	Regional shire headquarters
1987 - 88	Berambool sporting complex
1990	Sealed airport and night landing
1990	Relocation of RSL Club
1992	Pambula bypass
1992	Pro-am overseas golf tournament
1992	Mandini Ladies comp
1993	Poker machines in Victoria had some effect on local clubs
1994	Racecourse
1995	Walking track finished
1995	Merimbula tornado
1995	Pub at the entrance of the town refurbished
1996	Main Street beautification
1996 - 97	Privatisation of airport
1996	Woolworths came
1996	National Parks and Wildlife office moved to Merimbula from Eden

3.14.2 Community Responses to Two Events

Each group looked in detail at two of the above events, one they saw as negative and one positive

- **POSITIVE:** Street beautification
- SE Business Enterprise Centre at Bega supplied a speaker to assist the ‘thoughts’ workshop
- Business and general community meeting, 50 - 60 people attended then went quiet then stoked up in 1993- range of representatives from various local organisations
- Funding arranged for a co-ordinator called it Merimbula 2000
- Co-ordinator set up an organisational structure with the committee
- A range of associated events was organised
- Sixty people involved on a voluntary basis
- All the events developing and means the event put money back into the community
- Merimbula 2000 committees have been very active and high profile

NEGATIVE EVENT: The tornado

- Totally unexpected event , 7:30 pm 16 April 1995.
- Caused devastation about 200 metres wide
- Minor injuries only
- major devastation
- State government did not respond as hoped
- Visitors packed up and went even though the Easter holiday period had just started
- Loss of income for town and community
- Hundred houses damaged
- One dozen houses destroyed
- Extensive power failure, heavy rain, roofing iron strewn on power lines and elsewhere
- Arrival of emergency services, contribution by community excellent - provision of clothing, food and covering for roof
- Pambula beach caravans - people taken into local homes
- major rain damage to Units and houses where roofing had gone
- Within twelve hours, a Survival Committee was formed from Department/Government agencies, Salvation Army, churches emergency services and community, worked together to provide assistance. Good community.

3.14.3 Community Feelings about Merimbula

- Like living here, good networks, extremely beautiful, good climate
- Guarded concern about tourism
- natural environment very special, coast etc
- Enjoy lifestyle - involvement of community
- Supportive/strong community
- Climate extremely good, pleasant to live in , good facilities
- Very civilised place to live, lots of benefits, good environment
- Climate so far ahead of lots of places, people happy, visitors too
- Vibrant place to live, a combination of good things
- Unique environment/ people are sometimes removed from consultation and decision making. some people get frustrated by the consultation that has to go on for ideas to be developed
- Open friendly and relaxed community
- It is a continually evolving town of proactive people, they get in and make it happen
- Very large silent majority - apathy, very large noisy majority that are proactive that are proactive
- Intelligent input all round
- Cleanest air and water, prettiest place, hope economically the family can stay
- Love the place 365 days per year

3.14.4 Visions for Merimbula

- Underground power cable
- Community centre which holds more than 200 people
- Central library
- High School
- Further development of skate park
- Population growth 4% 190-91
- Development potential of facilities
- Cultural centre/sporting centre
- Hospital
- Jobs for young people
- Range of opportunities, variety needed
- Cinema with 200 seats
- To plan the peak of acceptable development
- Regional perspective
- Diversity, economic growth in shire
- Creation of new industries
- Remote education as a reality
- In twenty years, we will still be saying this is god's own country
- Keep it beautiful, small but that is not enough, so need growth and employment balance
- Opportunity for a range of regional nodes to link in a diversity for the region, well centrally placed
- Want to be able to have things for the 16-18 year olds
- Shire vision re appropriate use of various land types through shire - to be identified for a range of uses - example is proposal for crematorium
- Make community aware of current vision documents for Merimbula and the region e.g.ACC)

3.14.5 Reaction to Forest Use Changes

Deferred areas become available for industry use:

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
Jobs	Losses to eco tourism
Development of pine in Bombala	Non-protection of biodiversity and water
Income	
FILAP assists diversification of economic base	

Relocation of Tablelands to Eden, flow on to Merimbula

Deferred Areas become available for conservation and recreation

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
Protection of biodiversity and water	Flow on effects from Eden and Bombala, possible job losses
Eco tourism	Increased load on taxpayer
Creation of additional NPWS jobs	Reduced need for Eden wharf
FILAP assists diversify regional economic base	
Development of pine industry in Bombala	
Tablelands moves to Eden, flow on to Merimbula	

50% Deferred areas become National Park
50% Deferred areas become available for industry use

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
Develop pine industry in Bombala	Flow on effects from Eden/Bombala, possible job losses
Tablelands moves to Merimbula	Reduced need for Eden wharf
	Increased load on taxpayer

3.14.6 Other Issues

Retention of wealth in region eg State Forest royalties)
Community involvement in issue
Get government compensation and investment (mitigation

3.15 CASE STUDY AREA - WYNDHAM

3.15.1 Population

Wyndham's population at the 1996 census was 113.Approximately eight per cent of the population was born overseas and 11 % speak a language other than English.

3.15.2 Wyndham Selected Characteristics (ABS 1996)

	Male	Female	Persons
Total persons	51	46	97
Aged 15 years and over	42	37	79
Aboriginal	3	3	6
Torres Strait Islander	0	0	0
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander(b)	0	0	0
Australian born	38	36	74
Born Overseas:			
Canada, Ireland, NZ, South Africa, UK(c) and USA	0	0	0
Other country (d)	5	3	8
Total	*5*	*3*	*8*
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	35	33	68
Speaks language other than English(e) and aged 5 years and over	7	4	11
Australian citizen	43	38	81
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	35	30	65
Unemployed	0	0	9
Employed	13	13	26
In the labour force	22	13	35
Not in the labour force	14	25	39
Unemployment Rate	40.9%	0%	25.7%
Enumerated in private dwellings	51	46	97
Enumerated in non-private dwellings	0	0	0

In regard to family structure, over 50% of Wyndham residents below the age of 50 are part of a couple family structure (ABS Census 1991). The median age in the town is 28 years.

3.15.3 Industry by Employment

Forest industry employment levels in 1997 represent approximately four per cent of the Wyndham workforce.
Over 50 % of dwellings were fully owned in 1996, slightly lower than 1986 fully owned dwellings. The percentage of dwellings being purchased in 1996 fell to eight per cent compared with 17 % in 1991 and 15 % in 1986 (ABS Census Data).

The largest occupation group in Wyndham in 1991 were identified as Managers and Administrators which comprised 16 %. The remaining population was split fairly evenly between other occupations such as professionals, tradespersons, clerks, salespersons, plant and machine operators and drivers etc.

3.15.4 Income

Individual income has increased gradually since 1986. Thirty-eight per cent of individuals earn between $8,000 and $26,000 per annum in 1996 compared with approximately 25% of people in 1986. The median weekly individual income is $160 - $199 and the median weekly household income is $120 - 299.

3.16 OUTCOMES OF WYNDHAM COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Held: 5th March 1997

3.16.1 Significant Events in Wyndham

Annual	School concert
	Flood from time to time
mid 70s	influx of people changing the community
1983-94	Wyndham Wedgies Footy Club
early 1970 - 78	Beef depression led to sell off of land happening again now
1996-97	Signage for tourists in Wyndham
1965	Police station closed / then became police residence and then sold privately in 1980
1969	Pambula butter factory closed affecting Wyndham and dairy farmers switched to beef or sold some land
1978 onwards	Progress Association
1980's	Water scheme - put town water on through community scheme
1987	Government grant for water scheme
1994	School numbers peaked at approximately 80
1994 on	School arts and crafts festival
1994	Monthly market started which raises funds for sports ground and attracts tourists
1995	Wyndham Dance Festival started, attracts district people
1996	Sealed basketball court etc
1996	Carr Government decision re National Parks affects community - closed up resource
1997	Sports Ground construction finished
1997	School numbers dropped to the mid 60s

3.16.2 Community responses to two events

Positive : Community Water Scheme

- The pub owner who had come from Maude told people about a town water scheme up there and initiated one for Wyndham
- Five people in the community said they would put up money and guarantee
- Considerable discussion for and against and a variety of ways of doing it debated
- Pump up water from creek - UV treated
- Government grant to establish system
- Incorporate body runs it through committee
- Residents pay flat rate of $200 per year for water
- Big achievement - good stream water

Negative : Change in population size and nature

- People arrived 1979 - population size and nature changed
- Came for alternative lifestyles and stayed for varying lengths of months to years some left after kids grew up
- Good mix of traditional residents and new people
- A lot of tension between two groups
- Example of issues: road to sports ground had been gazetted as a road but used as a park (including war memorial)
- Progress association increase to 140 members by those who wanted to have a say over whether the road should be a park
- Another issue of conflict was method of heating the hall
- Since issue ended there is now only 11 active Progress Association members though more will likely show for the AGM
- Various options were discussed and now resolved and there is an acceptable road to sportsground

3.16.3 Community Attachment to Wyndham

- Great place to live and bring up kids in a good environment, clean air and water, good school

- Plenty of space - can get more land for the money. Some people can hack it, some can't
- Good mix of people
- Good strong community people pitch in
- Live a bit out of town and keep to myself, but it must be OK since we're all getting along well here tonight
- Proud about the things we do as a community - great place for kids, good lifestyle
- Feel Wyndham's image in the news is sometimes negative - eg drugs
- Market days are good
- Keen to get the "good news" of Wyndham more known and defensive of Wyndham
- Good community - sometimes the division in the population is a bit hard
- Wants to see better image of the real Wyndham as a good place to live - feels there is distortion of what Wyndham is like
- Merimbula wants to take over Wyndham tourist markets and sometimes gives tourist an unflattering impression of Wyndham. There's a bit of rivalry with Merimbula for tourist dollars
- Wyndham community is split on the timber industry issue. That's the only thing, its a bit divided
- Good place to live - I like it because of community mix
- Wyndham is an exceptionally colourful place - some district problems are said to be town issues but that isn't fair. We feel strongly about things, its larger than life.
- Pub - good scene, there's always a party on at the pub.

3.16.4 Visions for Wyndham

- More bitumen - a decent road in and out of town - the Shire hasn't looked after us well enough - two bridges are needing repair . its not fair how Council distributes resources - money from here is not reflected back in better services - they've forgotten us
- Couple of businesses would be good e.g. joinery or timber value adding places
- More viability in agriculture sector - because when there are hard times there is less money and beef holdings get smaller and less viable except as hobby farms
- Other opportunities!!!
- Would like Wyndham to stay the same or even smaller, keep the dirt roads, a subsistence town
- Would like some new sporting groups from sporting ground - rugby, cricket, and soccer - helps harness the community
- Expansion of horticulture and intensive agriculture
- Legalise marijuana
- Some moderate accommodation and more tourist facilities so that people stay overnight, while keeping it 'real'. Not a polished tourist town

- Pioneer stockman's route development theme - signs with dates and heritage - pick up on tourism - linking into other districts for example through Rocky Hall to Pambula.
- Forest reconciliation - through sport and kids, for example

3.16.5 Reaction to Forest Use Changes

Deferred areas become available for industry use

Positive Impact	Neg
Maintain jobs in timber industry	Poo
Maintenance of mechanical firefighting methods	
Access to bush	
Production of sawlogs rather than chip	
Maintain current levels of population - flow onto services	
Maintenance of production infrastructure to enhance farm forestry	
Employment through better silvicultural practices e.g. thinnings	
Access for dogs and rabbit shooting	

Deferred Areas become available for conservation and recreation

Positive Impact	Neg
Maintain water quality	Mor
Maintain biodiversity	Poss timl
Maintain old growth forests for honey production	Los
Tourism potential	Pote
Linking wildlife corridors for contiguous areas	
Habitat enhancement	
Possible increase in population though tourism industry - increase in services	

50% Deferred areas become availalbe for conservation and recreation
50% Deferred areas available for industry uses

No suggestions were made for this option from the workshop

3.16.6 Issues Raised

Spot miller can't get access to timber from State Forest
Rubbishy forest - not sawlog quality in harvestable areas
State Forest control of feral animals - possibly not as good as National Parks
Will State Forest properly manage forests through thinning

Lobby National Parks and Wildlife Service to let beekeepers in

3.17 CASE STUDY AREA - BEGA

3.17.1 History of Settlement

The name Bega originates from the Aboriginal word "Biggah" meaning 'beautiful' or 'large'. Bega was first discovered when squatters from Braidwood, in search for new pastures for their cattle, settled there.

The Imlay family first established property in the 1840s, renting land to the first permanent settlers arriving during this period. The breeding of cattle and pigs were the early industries of the district, and were replaced in prominence, at the turn of the century, by the local dairying industry.

Bega is the region's administrative centre, where banking, hospital, agricultural and government services are centred. Current plans of the Bega cheese co-operative to expand its packaging operations, together with the national and international success of the trade name in cheese, contribute to the vision for the future in Bega.

3.17.2 Population

The data for home ownership and tenure details shows only small changes over the last ten years. The level of home ownership increased from 34.7% of the population in 1986 to 35.8% in 1996. The percentage of people buying their own home decreased from 27.9 percent of the population to 24.3 over the same period. Those people living in rented accommodation increased from 27.8 percent of the population in 1986 to around 29.3% in 1996.

3.17.3 Bega (Town) Selected Characteristics (ABS 1996)

	Male	Female	Persons
Total persons	1,517	1,628	3,145
Aged 15 years and over	1,117	1,282	2,399
Aboriginal	47	47	94
Torres Strait Islander	0	0	0
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander(b)	3	3	6
Australian born	1,342	1,463	2,805
Born Overseas:Canada, Ireland, NZ, South Africa, UK(c) and USA	71	64	135
Other country(d)	34	33	67
Total	*105*	*97*	*202*
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	1,290	1,408	2,698
Speaks language other than English(e) and aged 5 years and over	25	34	59
Australian citizen	1,421	1,531	2,952
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	990	1,131	2,121
Unemployed	74	64	138
Employed	641	513	1154
In the labour force	715	577	1292
Not in the labour force	369	673	1042
Unemployment Rate	10.3%	11.1%	10.7%
Enumerated in private dwellings	1,430	1,541	2,971
Enumerated in non-private dwellings	87	87	174
Overseas visitor	5	7	12

The median age in the town is 36 years.

3.17.4 Industry by Employment

Dairying is still the most important industry in the district with Bega being particularly noted for the manufacture of butter and cheese. In 1993 -4 the dairy industry represented ten percent of the estimated production value of dairying operations in the State (DUAP 1997)

From the 1996 census, the following table gives an industry by employment analysis for Bega (town)

Agriculture forestry and fishing	33
Mining	0
Manufacturing	96
Electricity Gas and Water Supply	15
Construction	75
Wholesale Trade	66
Retail Trade	215
Accommodation cafes and restaurants	80
Transport and Stroage	67
Communication Services	12
Finance and Insurance	24
Property and Business Services	83
Govt Admin and Defence	77
Education	54
Health and Community Services	158
Culture and Recreation Services	15
Personal and Other services	43
Non-classifiable economic units	18
Not stated	21
Total	115 2

Source ABS

Forestry and Logging Industry Workforce - Bega town

Full-time/Part-time Employment	1986	1991
Employed Full-time	11	7
Employed Part-time	3	0

Source ABS

3.17.5 Income

The median individual weekly income is $200-299 and the median weekly household income is $300 - $499.

3.18 OUTCOMES OF BEGA COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Held: March 1997

3.18.1 Significant Events in Bega

Date	Event
1977	Annual Bemboka Field days started
1970 late	Money sent to promote Bega - promote cheese- Kameruka
1970	Hobby farm increase starts
1971	Flood
1972	Bushfires in the district
1980	Sheltered workshop
1980s	Bush blocks begin to be sold
1981	Coles came to Bega
1981	Local government amalgamation
1983	Bushfires in the district
1985	Bushfires in the district
1986/87	New shire chambers
1988	Bushfires in the district
1988/89	Bega sawmills closed (other two closed early 1900s
1990 onward	South East Region Training Enterprise Centre - Telecottage
1992/97	Dairy Co-op investment program
1994	Increase in students at high school (800-1100)
1995	Show jumping Cup
1995	Bega Festival (has been 3)
1995/96	Alternative Farming Expo (Field day at Candelo)
1996	significant increase in beef and cattle prices
1996	1st NSW bushfire field days (southern region)
1997	Bega Hospital Rally ($3000)
1997	125th Anniversary of the Agricultural Annual Show - other district shows

3.18.2 Community Responses to Two Events

POSITIVE ISSUE - New investment in Bega Co-op
- It is a co-op - Vertically integrated etc
- Australia wide food chain interest

- They invested in an automated cheese machine
- Shareholders vote for board of directors
- Looked at the value of the by-products
- Cheese storage
- Heritage interest
- Have had out of town investment
- Variety of diversified investment
- $30mil turn cheese into consumer packs
- 95% of community behind it
- Small number who are against it have had to respond
- Co op goes to considerable lengths to explain and minimise any effects those concerned may feel
- New development misunderstandings
- Runs on solid fuel - others use gas line
- It has resulted extra jobs and will go on creating new jobs - good employer in town
- Assists tourism in town

NEGATIVE ISSUE - Hospital issue
Reduction in actual services
Possible further reduction
Loss of budgets
Loss of hospital board
Loss of specialist services
Until put clearly to community the magnitude of the situation wasn't fully realised
Once the medical staff spoke out it 'hit home'
Local paper assisted with the information
Facts were exposed
Erosion of facilities very serious
Rally- coordinated effort- Bega District News gave headlines, editorial support.
Word of mouth spread to the district and beyond
All recognised the importance of the issue - it was worth fighting for
Meet with bureaucrats and regional health staff
Public meeting for health council proposal
Steering committee formed to input into guidelines
Public meeting next week for the whole shire to form a watchdog committee for Bega

3.18.3 Community Attachment to Bega.

- Very generous community in many ways, especially financially, if needed
- Very positive
- Prepared to meet major community needs
- Very active and community minded service clubs
- I am new to Bega, and although its a small town, amazed about range of projects and achievements
- In face of disasters (fire/flood) people come forward to help. Young people assist too.
- Proud, positive, responsive. Great support for recreational clubs.
- Very resourceful community - skills etc. in community- can achieve without looking out
- Friendly, courteous, understanding and tolerant of a range of community people
- Very caring - so many organisations to belong too
- Conservative community sometimes makes a feeling of conflict. River Valley thinking but also recognises Bega has a long and good tradition and can work well together -integrated
- Community spirit
- Wonderful museum- very old
- Rural tradition - scale suits small close community but is large enough

3.18.4 Visions for Bega

- Investment in Co-operative
- Bypass of Bega

- Street beautification
- High School redevelopment
- Greater economic viability
- How to address- lower wages sector with meeting needs
- Need employment for younger people
- University campus for the area
- Tourism (ECO Tourism) opportunity - not the total answer. What else could be developed here
- Looking at potential/vision given location and costs of getting in as well as out
- Cost of getting to Bega (Air, road etc) could be looked at
- Potential of a variety of light industry jobs and training - diversity will be needed
- The links between further education jobs and training
- Need to attract a range of spending opportunities in tourism dollars
- Need for activities and cultural variety for youth
- Acknowledge that 75% of the shire is not rateable - so limited ability to link into other areas of tourism - beaches, Mts, snow and swimming
- Making good use of Internet and opportunity to link globally to sell ourselves and promote world interest

3.18.5 Reaction to changes in forest use

Deferred areas become available for industry use.

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
End of community conflict	Shire doesn't get much out of timber industry- due to no value adding
	Deterioration of water catchment for Bega
	Access to timber resources for small mills and firewood difficulties
	Local information from NP&WS and SF should be allowed
	Lack of local decision making

Deferred Areas available for conservation and recreation

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
Capitalisation of visitor facilities - easy access necessary	Who is going to pay
Jobs through tourism and business groups	Accessibility of fire fighting tracks - trails decreased - community protection at risk
Increased visitors to Heritage Centre and Museum	Loss of forest jobs and fuel, tyres etc, . (70 people in Eden registered for job vacancies)
Building of old growth interpretative centre	Will effect the schools
Needs Commonwealth and Sate backing, local government money not available	Losing people with bush skills -fire particularly and losing machinery operator (i.e. dozers)
Tourism from promoting the last of great world temperate forests- international tourists	Loss of population
Increase in winery already from development of Pipers lookout	No access to firewood because licences issued elsewhere and more forests are locked up - harder to find
Backpacker /Eco Tourism	Access to timber resources for small mills and firewood
Educational advantages	End of export woodchip, loss of jobs
May see an end to export woodchips- better small sawmill, poles, posts and round section and value adding	Lack of local decision making
End of community conflict	Local information from NPWS an SF should be allocated

50% Deferred areas become availalbe for conservation and recreation
50% Deferred areas become available for industry use

Positive Impact	Negative Impacts
Recognition of opposing arguments , compromise agreements	Lack of local decision making leads to bureaucrats who don't know area mucking it up
End of community conflict	Access to timber resources for small mill and firewood

	difficulties
	Local information from NPWS and SF should be allowed