

2. CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY

2.1 UNDERTAKING THE SOCIAL ASSESSMENT IN THE SEQ RFA

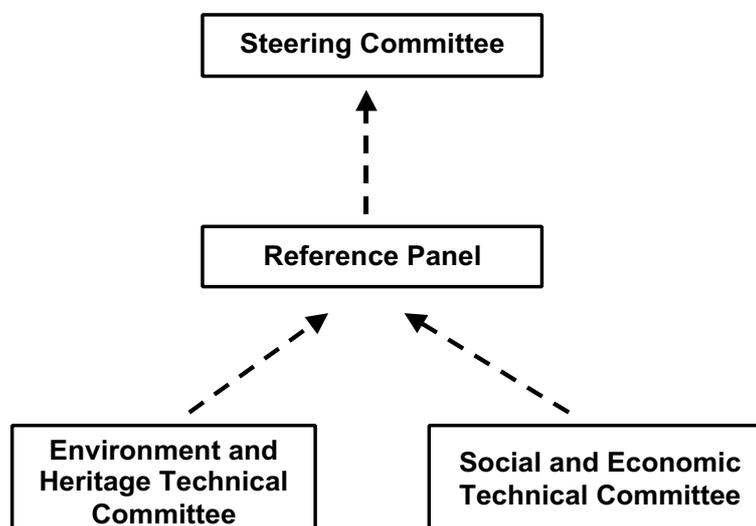
This section outlines the consultation framework for the RFA and the methods used in undertaking the social assessment. Some of the constraints or parameters involved in developing the social assessment methodology are also discussed.

The development of the Social Assessment Overview Report has direct links to the various committees established as a part of the consultation framework for the entire SEQ RFA. This consultation framework will first be explained and then followed by an outline of the methods used for preparing and/or undertaking the steps previously outlined in Chapter One.

2.2 CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE SEQ RFA

An extensive consultation framework was established for the SEQ RFA. Stakeholders have actively participated and have input into the process design and methods used for undertaking the RFA. The Steering Committee has representation from the Commonwealth Government, Queensland Government and the Reference Panel and is the decision making body for the RFA. The Reference Panel includes representatives from the following peak body organisations; Local Government Association of Queensland, Forest Protection Society, United Graziers Association, Cattlemen’s Union, Australian Worker’s Union, Queensland Beekeepers Association, Queensland Conservation Council, Wilderness Society, Rainforest Conservation Society, Queensland Timber Board, Gurang Land Council, Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA), Goolburri Aboriginal Corporation Land Council. The Reference Panel members are also members of the technical committees. The structure of the consultation framework is illustrated in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2.1 CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE SEQ RFA



2.3 METHODS USED FOR UNDERTAKING THE SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

The first step in the Social Assessment involved ‘scoping’ the ‘terms of reference’ via project specifications developed by the Social and Economic Technical Committee. These specifications were scoped, endorsed and approved by Steering Committee creating the four Social Assessment projects. The Social Assessment projects are listed below:

- *SE 5.1 Post Impact Studies Analysis*
- *SE 5.2 Regional Social Profile*
- *SE 5.3 Social Case Study Areas*
- *SE 5.4 Business Dependency Survey - Resource, Forest Industry and Employee Catchment Analysis.*

Further scoping for the individual projects was undertaken. This involved working with stakeholders to identify and prioritise their issues of concern, and collecting secondary data to select the 10 social case study areas for further detailed analysis.

Profiling naturally follows the scoping phase. Comprehensive data sources were used including both primary and secondary qualitative and quantitative data as outlined by Taylor et al (1990) and the Inter-organisational Social Impact Assessment Guidelines. These include:

- use of available statistical data including Australian Bureau of Statistics data, data from Local Government Plans and Commonwealth and State Government department statistical data. Such data was important in the development of the Regional Social Profile Report
- other secondary data including previous social impact assessments and environment impact assessments, Local Government planning documents, regional planning documents and academic literature; this information was used in the development of the Regional Social Profile, Post Impact Studies Analysis and the Social Case Study Areas
- survey data through the use of surveys developed in association with an independent consultant and endorsed by stakeholders; the survey findings were used to develop a Resource, Forest Industry and Employee Catchment Analysis for the SEQ RFA region. Surveys were also designed and implemented to profile Farm Forester issues and Local Government concerns, particularly quarrying activities in State Forests
- other data collected at participatory forums.

A number of consultation methods have been utilised in the development of the Social Assessment Report including:

- the use of existing consultation structures, which include use of local community organisations and the RFA Reference Panel
- meetings with stakeholder groups, which included the Forest Protection Society, Councils, graziers and farm forestry interests
- survey input, which included surveys of forest user businesses and their employees including saw mills, logging contractors, bee-keepers and graziers. Surveys of all 44 Councils, and Councils with quarry interests in State forests, and surveys of farm foresters
- community workshops, which included towns such as Builyan/Many Peaks, Maryborough, Gympie, Woodford, Linville and Cooroy
- forums, which included Local Government Association of Queensland RFA forum and Forest Protection Society forums
- focus groups, which included Local Chamber of Commerce, Cooloola Shire Council and Wondai RFA Committee
- interviews with individuals affected by past mill closures and Council representatives
- Opportunities for written responses to individual draft reports by Reference Panel members.

In addition to the above opportunities for public participation in the context of data gathering for the social assessment, a series of 'generic' public meetings were conducted in Caboolture, Ipswich, Toogoolawah, Gympie, Eidsvold, Wondai, Maryborough and Calliope and Builyan.

This data was critical in the development of the social assessment process.

Further detail of the specific methods used in developing the four social assessment reports is outlined in Appendix A .

2.4 CONSTRAINTS TO METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the social assessment process has been limited by the timeframes agreed to by the State and Commonwealth Governments and by the resources allocated to the different projects. However, the incorporation of social aspects in the SEQ RFA has been the most comprehensive undertaken for a forestry assessment in Queensland to date.

Information collected through the four separate social projects has been used in developing this Report. The use of data collected from these projects has resulted in information gaps. In particular, the four social projects relate mostly to the native forest timber industry and forest dependant communities. Other users and values are identified in a limited sense. The current and potential social and economic benefits of forests in conservation areas are not addressed in this Report.

This Report has an information bias towards the native forest timber industry and therefore should not be used to support one position over another. Information gaps are too broad for this Report to be considered an holistic social assessment of the SEQ RFA.

