



Water Planners Survey

A National Survey of Australian Water Planners for the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge's Collaborative Water Planning Project

This survey is part of a research project which aims to review, pilot and promote collaborative approaches to water planning in Northern Australia. The Collaborative Water Planning Project is part of the TRaCK program (Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge Research Hub).

The information you provide will be used to inform the development of a tool-kit of current best practices to engage industry, Indigenous and rural communities in water planning, and a proposal for a training and development package.

These products will contribute to water planning nationally by setting guidelines and benchmarks to monitor and evaluate collaboration in water planning and by establishing clear procedures that integrate community preferences into water planning. The products will also contribute to regional water planning by assisting water agencies to improve water planning approaches; by helping to minimise conflicts between parties; by providing models and case studies for good collaboration; by helping develop stronger long-term relationships between stakeholders.

For more information, please see the project outline at
<http://www.griffith.edu.au/centre/slrc/water/>

The survey will take approximately twenty minutes. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and also confidential. You are not obliged to complete all of the questions or any particular item. Once you complete the survey, please return it via email to:

john.mackenzie@griffith.edu.au

We thank-you for your participation. Your contributions to this survey are highly valued, and will help ensure the findings from our research are targeted to the needs and requirements of Australian water planners.

This questionnaire is being conducted by the Collaborative Water Planning project as part of the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge Research Hub. TRaCK receives major funding for its research through the Australian Government's Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities initiative; the Australian Government's Raising National Water Standards Programme; Land and Water Australia and the Queensland Government's Smart State Innovation Fund.



Australian Government Water Fund
Raising National Water Standards



If you need assistance with the survey or would like further information, please phone John Mackenzie
(07) 3735 5408 during business hours.

1. Your Details

Please select your State or Territory: _____

I am located in the:

- Central Office
 Regional Office

My key responsibilities and skills within water planning are:

- Hydrology
 Policy
 Project management
 Community consultation
 Technical advisory panel
 Manager or team leader
 Social and economic assessment
 Ecological assessment

 Other: Please specify _____

2. Your Awareness and Experience

Please answer the questions in this section in relation to any water planning projects which you have been involved with. If you have not been involved in a water planning project to date, please proceed to Section 3.

How many water planning projects have you been involved with that involved public participation?

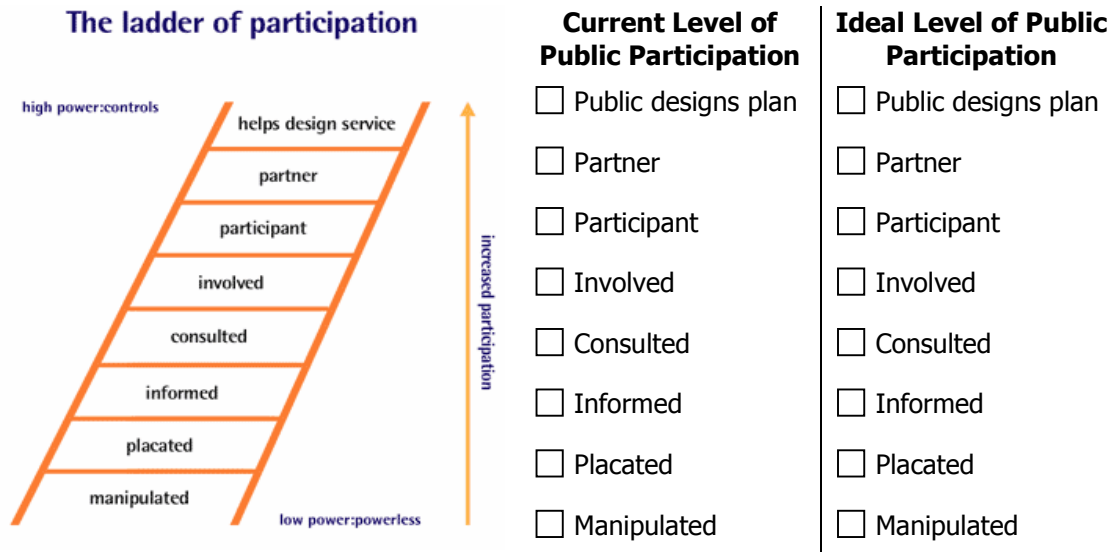
- 1-2
 3-5
 6-10
 More than 10

Have you been involved in other natural resource management projects that have involved public participation?

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

If so, please specify the type of project:

Based on the participation ladder below, please indicate the extent of **current public participation** in water planning in the left hand column, and where you think **ideal public participation** should aspire towards in the right hand column.



At what stage in the water planning process do you think public participation should occur?

- Prior to the announcement of a planning process
- Upon announcement of a planning process
- During the drafting process
- Upon release of the draft plan
- Upon release of the final plan
- All of the above
- Other: Please specify _____

In the projects you have been involved in, did the public participation or community contributions provide useful input into the process?

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|

If so, how was the information useful?

Did the community information inform the development of the plan or strategy, for example, in clarifying water planning scenarios?

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|

Have you ever used information from a public participation process when preparing briefing notes or Cabinet submissions?

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|

During the planning process, did the community stakeholders expect to see a social assessment carried out?

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|

Compared to other information gathering and assessments (such as hydrological or environmental), how important do you believe the community input was to stakeholders?

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very important | <input type="checkbox"/> Important | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately important | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited importance | <input type="checkbox"/> Very limited importance |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|

During the planning process, was there a specific process to enable effective Indigenous participation?

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|

Please briefly describe the approach taken to enable Indigenous participation:

Compared to other information gathering and assessments (such as hydrological or environmental), how important do you believe the Indigenous input was to planning process?

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very important | <input type="checkbox"/> Important | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately important | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited importance | <input type="checkbox"/> Very limited importance |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|

In projects that you were involved in, how satisfied were the stakeholders with the public participation in your opinion? If you have been involved in a number of projects, please consider the latest three.

| | | | |
|----------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Project One: | <input type="checkbox"/> High satisfaction | <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> Low satisfaction |
| Project Two: | <input type="checkbox"/> High satisfaction | <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> Low satisfaction |
| Project Three: | <input type="checkbox"/> High satisfaction | <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> Low satisfaction |

For your answers above, what were the three key factors that contributed to the satisfaction or dissatisfaction of the stakeholders?

In what ways could the public participation have been improved?

Based on your experience, do you think that community input should influence the development of a water resource plan or strategy?

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|

Why? Please indicate the reasons for your answer:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Based on your experience, how important do you regard public participation to the water planning process?

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very important | <input type="checkbox"/> Important | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately important | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited importance | <input type="checkbox"/> Very limited importance |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|

How important do you regard Indigenous participation to the water planning process?

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very important | <input type="checkbox"/> Important | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately important | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited importance | <input type="checkbox"/> Very limited importance |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|

How important do you regard social assessment to the water planning process?

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very important | <input type="checkbox"/> Important | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately important | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited importance | <input type="checkbox"/> Very limited importance |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|



3. Purpose of Public Participation

Which of the following statements do you agree with? Please indicate your response by selecting one of the boxes in each row.

Public participation should seek to:

| | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Examine the social benefits and values of water use/availability | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Identify current and future water requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Raise awareness of hydrological issues | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Examine the social affects of various planning scenarios | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Contribute to least cost planning by examining social costs | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increase understanding of water reform and the need for water planning | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Identify potential issues for the implementation of water plans | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minimise conflict between stakeholders | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increase community support for water planning | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other: Please specify | | | | | |
| Other: Please specify | | | | | |

A social assessment should seek to:

| | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Examine the short terms effects of planning | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Examine the long term effects of planning | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Focus on changes that are a direct outcome of the plan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Consider possible indirect or flow on effects for communities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Consult with those who may be affected | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advise on equity issues raised by water planning scenarios | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Be publicly available | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. Training and Professional Development

Have you had formal training or professional development opportunities in public participation?

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

If so, please describe the nature of the training:

Would you like more training to improve your ability to work with stakeholders?

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

If yes, please indicate in which areas you would like to more training, by rating the desirability of the options from not required to highly desirable by selecting one of the boxes in each row.

| | <i>Not Required</i> | | | | <i>Highly Desirable</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Areas of Training | | | | | |
| Identifying stakeholders | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Facilitating meetings and public events | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Social assessment skills | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cross-cultural engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Methods for working with Aboriginal groups | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mediation and conflict management | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Communicating science | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Collaborative decision-support tools | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

What are some of the additional areas that you feel you would benefit from additional training and development?

Which of the following types of training would you find most useful?

| | <i>Not Useful</i> | | | <i>Highly Desirable</i> | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Delivery of Training | | | | | |
| Short courses (one to three days) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lunchtime seminars | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Online courses and resources | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Workshops to share experiences with colleagues | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conferences or forums | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Post-graduate study | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Developing new networks to share information | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Self-administered training package | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Are there any other forms of training and development that would be useful? Please specify:

5. Additional Comments

Do you have any additional comments that you would like to make with regard to public participation in water planning?

Many thanks for taking the time to complete this survey.
Please email this document now to:

john.mackenzie@griffith.edu.au