
Socio-economic impacts of land use change in the Green Triangle and Central Victoria

Project Update # 3 – December 2007

Welcome to the third update for the ‘Socio-economic impacts of land use change in the Green Triangle and Central Victoria’ research project. Updates are being provided at key points throughout the project to keep you in touch with progress in the three major studies being undertaken in the project:

- Community attitudes and values survey
- Quantifying and analysing land use and socio-economic change
- Survey of landholders who have changed land use to plantation forestry

A lot has been happening in the project; progress is reported below. We now have a timetable for expected release of our research results, provided on page 2; our first research report will be coming out in February 2008.

A number of people have joined the distribution list since the last update, many through their participation in the Melbourne University-led “resident views on land use change survey”. We welcome you and thank you for your interest in the research.

Website

The project website has been updated and will be updated regularly as results are released from February 2008. If you want to know more about what peer reviewers said about the methods we’re using in the project, and our final methodology, you can now find these documents on the website.

The project website URL will soon change from the current URL <http://www.crcforestry.com.au/research/programme-four/land-use-change/> to:

<http://www.landusechange.net.au>

This will make it simpler for people to find the project website. Note that the old URL will still direct you to the website.



899 members of the community responded to the resident views on land use change postal survey.

Coming soon: *Living with land use change: different views and perspectives*

In February 2008, we will release a report on *Living with land use change: different views and perspectives* about land use change and its impacts in the Green Triangle and Central Victoria. This report presents the results of the group interviews undertaken in eight locations through the study region in September 2006. The report analyses what the interviews revealed about the different ways land use change is experienced by a diversity of residents of the region.

Coming in May 2008: Results of the Community attitudes survey

In May, surveys were sent to randomly selected residents of the study region, asking their views about different land use changes and their impacts. In total, 899 members of the community responded to the survey, sharing their views on the impacts of different types of land use change.

A second smaller survey is being undertaken in December 2007. This survey is aimed at younger residents and female residents of the study region, as these groups were under-represented in the initial survey. Results of this study will be released in May 2008.

The project's research providers are: The Australian National University, the University of Melbourne, and Victorian Government Department of Primary Industries. The following organisations are contributing cash or in-kind funding to the project (in alphabetical order): Central Victorian Farm Plantations, Cooperative Research Centre for Forestry, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Forest and Wood Products Australia, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, Glenelg Shire Council, Green Triangle Regional Plantation Committee, Moyne Shire Council, Southern Grampians Shire Council, Victorian Government Department of Primary Industries, and Wattle Range Council.

Delayed to Sep 2008: Quantifying & analysing land use and socio-economic change

The *Quantifying and analysing change* part of the project has been delayed due to late release of some key data on agriculture by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Analysis of the statistics underpinning this study is progressing as data from various sources become available. Preliminary analysis of Agricultural Census and Census of Population and Housing data for the period 1991-2001 data has been undertaken while awaiting the arrival of 2006 data. This will enable release of results from this part of the project in September 2008.

Employment and spending data

As part of quantifying and analysing land use and socio-economic change, data on the employment and spending generated by different types of land use will be collected in early 2008 in a small

survey of land users in a number of primary industries. This survey will use the framework developed from an April 2007 workshop, in which representatives of different primary industries in the region discussed how employment and spending should and could be compared across different land uses.

Survey of landholders who have changed land use to plantation forestry

In December 2007, 280 landholders were sent a survey asking them about their experiences with changing land use to farm forestry or plantation forestry (all 280 have made this land use change at some point in the last 15 years). The survey will identify any shifts in population that result from land use change to plantation forestry and farm forestry, and how satisfied landholders are with their decision to change land use.

Results of the survey will be published in June 2008.

Publication	What's it about?	Timing
Living with land use change: different views and perspectives	This report presents the results of the group interviews undertaken in the region in late 2006. It highlights the diversity of ways people in the region have been impacted by land use change.	Feb 2008
Comparing industries: final framework	This methodology report documents the framework developed to compare different industries to equivalent points in the chain of production.	Feb 2008
Understanding resident views on land use change	Reports results of the 'resident views on land use change' survey.	May 2008
Impacts of land use change to farm forestry and plantation forestry: landholder survey results	Analyses the impact of changing land use to plantation forestry or farm forestry on rural populations and on those who decide to make the change.	June 2008
Employment and spending: comparing the activity generated by different primary industries	Quantifies how much employment and spending different industries generate in the community.	Sept 2008
Socio-economic impacts of land use change: what do the statistics tell us?	Analyses the changes in land use, and social and economic characteristics across the region over time.	Sept 2008
Socio-economic impacts of land use change: Summary report & Integration report	Integration: Integrates findings across the whole project Summary: summarises the findings of the preceding publications.	Sept 2008

For further information, or to unsubscribe from these updates, please contact:

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