

# Social and Economic National Coordination Committee

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## Terms of Reference

### *Background*

A national Natural Resource Management Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (NM&EF) was endorsed by the NRM Ministerial Council in May 2002. The framework identifies the need to develop indicators of resource condition, the associated community and social processes relevant to or affected by NRM programs, and the adoption of sustainable development and production techniques. A copy of the NM&EF can be found at <http://www.nrm.gov.au/publications/evaluation/pubs/me-framework.pdf>.

The Audit has been identified by Natural Resource Policies and Programs Committee (NRPPC) as the national coordinator of natural resource indicators. The objectives of the Audit are to assist in the identification of natural resource management priorities and to allow the progress of natural resource management investments to be assessed through the development and maintenance of accurate, cost-effective contemporary, accessible and timely data and information on the nation's natural resources. The key outcomes and strategic directions of the NLWRA Strategic Plan can be found at <http://www.nlwra.gov.au/strategicplan0307.pdf>.

The Audit leads coordination efforts to refine the indicator protocols and related measurement methods in order to facilitate reporting on indicators and to provide advice on these matters back to the NRPPC. The Social and Economic National Coordination Committee is one of a number of groups charged with supporting the Audit in national coordination. Specifically the Audit has been tasked with:

- identifying national reporting drivers
- identifying data needs
- identifying national coordination committees
- engaging the national coordination committees to report annually to the Audit Advisory Council (AAC) on:
  - a workplan to enable updating information relevant to use of indicators identified under the NM&EF
  - the on-going development of a nationally consistent and linked database network and associated data collection, collation and reporting standards
  - the on-going development of nationally relevant indicators of resource condition
- coordinating standardised reporting across the natural resource base themes, and
- reporting in 2008 on the state of the national natural resource base through thematic collations of data and information.

At its meeting on the 10th December 2004, the Audit Advisory Council agreed to the establishment of a jurisdictionally based Social and Economic National Coordination Committee (SENCC) to provide advice on the implementation of the Audit's Socio-economic Workplan, and socio-economic indicators and products to support NRM program monitoring and evaluation. A copy of the Audit's Socio-economic Workplan can be found at [http://www.nlwra.gov.au/pdfs/NLWRA\\_Socio-economic\\_Workplan.pdf](http://www.nlwra.gov.au/pdfs/NLWRA_Socio-economic_Workplan.pdf)

### ***Terms of reference***

The terms of reference for the SENCC are to:

1. provide advice on national needs relating to NRM socio-economic data and information products, data management and related applications
2. oversee implementation of the socio-economic workplan and ensure it is relevant to the design, delivery and monitoring of NRM policies and programs, in particular to:
  - identify and support the formation of synergies with other existing/proposed socio-economic information activities within their jurisdiction, and
  - promote and disseminate its products
3. identify and support opportunities for generating national efficiencies in socio-economic data collation, collection, integration, analysis and reporting, including:
  - institutional, technical and other impediments to coordinated efforts, and
  - facilitating the provision of up-to-date regional/catchment scale data appropriate for collation at the national level
4. assist in the development of consistent standards, methods for the collection, management, documentation and sharing of socio-economic information
5. provide coordinated advice on socio-economic projects submitted to relevant national funding initiatives.

### ***Membership***

Membership of SENCC comprises:

- the Audit as chair (or Audit Advisory Council representative)
- two Australian Government policy representatives: Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW)
- a representative from each state and territory
- an observer from each of the major socio-economic data providers/research institutions: the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the Bureau of Rural Sciences, Land & Water Australia and Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics.

### ***Reporting arrangements***

SENCC reports to the Audit Advisory Council of the National Land & Water Resources Audit on information and technical aspects associated with implementation of the socio-economic workplan and to the Natural Resource Policies and Programs Committee on policy issues.

### ***Frequency of meetings***

SENCC meet tri-annually, with meeting times and locations as agreed by SENCC members.

### ***Sponsorship***

SENCC is sponsored by DAFF through the Natural Resource Management Division.

### ***Secretariat***

The Bureau of Rural Sciences provides secretariat services for SENCC under management agreements with DAFF and the Audit.

### ***Contact***

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