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CHRRUPP: BUILDING A BETTER SYSTEM OF REGIONAL PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY.

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ABSTRACT

As society increasingly understands the need for sustainable resource use and management, regional approaches to planning in rangelands are being commonly proposed. Many natural resource management issues cannot be effectively addressed at the single management unit alone (e.g. farm, protected area) but require knowledge and understanding of ecological and social system interactions at a broad systems scale (eg. catchment, regional). Australia has a long history of involvement in regional planning, but success in the form of sustainable resource use outcomes has been limited. This paper describes a regional resource use planning project called the Central Highlands Regional Resource Use Planning Project (CHRRUPP) that is being undertaken in part of the rangelands of Queensland. CHRRUPP seeks to establish and to evaluate a more negotiated and integrated approach to regional planning for sustainable resource use. It does this by:

- Better informing *all* regional stakeholder groups about the nature of natural resource management problems within the region;
- Directly supporting these stakeholder groups to do their own regional planning with respect to the sustainable use of natural resources;
- Supporting regional groups to get together in a structured way to negotiate regional solutions to common natural resource use problems; and
- Researching what regional planning techniques and processes best suit communicative planning and the specific needs of regional stakeholder interests.

CHRRUPP constitutes important research targeted at improving regional planning systems that directly addresses the social, institutional and technical challenges of sustainable development policies in rangelands.