



Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

**SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP
Final Report**

Part 1 - Summary Details

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC Project Number:

1. Project Title: Identifying Critical Community Capacities for Adaptability:
A review of the literature

Project Commencement Date: 1/12/2011

Project Completion Date: 30/3/2012

Research Program:

Part 2 – Contact Details

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Signature of Research Provider Representative:

Part 3 – Scholarship Report

The points below are to be used as a guideline when completing your final report.

1. Background:

There is a wealth of literature related to social capital and the ways in which this is mobilised for action, in multiple contexts, in communities of place. There is, for example, a body of literature related to community capacity to undertake natural resource management. There is also a considerable body of literature related to community capacity in the health and community development fields. There is an increasing body of work related to the concepts of ‘resilience.’ Some of this literature relates to the capacity of communities to adapt to change. In different contexts, this might be capacity to adapt to environmental, social or economic change. In consideration of the Pilot Project ‘*Securing Wealth and Wellbeing of Rural Communities*’ (Hogan, et al). it will be important to review this literature and synthesize the findings from across various disciplines areas, as a precursor to identifying the critical elements of adaptive capacity to be used for inputs into the agent based modelling scenarios.

2. Aims and Objectives:

This project aims to begin the process of identifying and reviewing relevant literature related to social capital and the ways in which this is mobilised in rural communities.

The project objectives were to:

a) Identify seminal literature related to the concepts of *social capacity; community capacity; adaptive capacity and resilience* across social, economic and environmental dimensions.

b) provide an annotated bibliography identifying key texts and themes. This will provide a baseline and starting point for synthesizing the literature to build an underpinning and integrated theoretical perspective of ‘critical adaptive community capacity’ for the “*Securing the Wealth and Wellbeing of Rural Communities*” project. This project (through the broader Pilot Project) targets the Cotton CRC outcome: *Increased adoption of new knowledge and enhanced decision-making capability of people working in or with the cotton industry, its catchments and communities.*

2. Methodology:

Literature review, compilation of annotated bibliography and summary text.

4. Results:

See Executive summary

5. Conclusion:

The nexus of social, economic and environmental capacities have been explored in various contexts. Major intersections that can be identified from the literature on cross-scale dynamics for implementing adaptation actions across regulatory and stakeholder landscapes. Wellbeing, adaptive capacity, community identity, capitals and the quality of the environments in which they exist form an interdependent skein, the ratios and influences of each factor being unique to the referent object itself. In that sense, context matters.

6. Highlights:

N/A – Lit review

7. Presentations and public relations:

Paper findings will be incorporated into broader 'Securing the Socio-economic Wellbeing of Rural Communities' project outputs.

8. References:

References will appear in papers produced from the broader project 'Securing the socio-economic wellbeing of rural communities.'

9. Executive Summary:

(provide a one paragraph summary of the Summer Scholarship, suitable for posting on the Cotton CRC web site)

This project aimed to examine literature related to social capital and adaptive capacity across three fields: NRM, Community Development and Health and Wellbeing. The project firstly compiled a database of relevant literature, then produced an annotated bibliography, for use in the broader Cotton CRC funded project titled: 'Securing the Socio-economic Wellbeing of Rural Communities.' The literature revealed that while there were commonalities across the fields, context mattered a great deal, and contributed significantly to which factors were of greatest importance in various scenarios and that these factors were to a high degree, interdependent. What this means for the broader project, is that a key component of any adaptive capacity framework developed, must consider the importance of interdependencies between critical attributes of capacity that are specific and local, and which may differ between rural communities.