



PROJECT SUMMARY

Demographic Change and Inland Australia

Demographic Change and Inland Australia: Exploring the motives, experiences and impact of tree-changers (2007- ongoing)
ILWS Funded Dr Angela T. Ragusa (ILWS)

Objectives

This research analysed the phenomenon known as 'tree change' (migration, often from urban areas, to more rural locations for 'lifestyle' reasons). The research sought to answer a number of questions such as: What motivates 'tree changers' to move from urban to rural Australia?; and what expectations do 'tree changers' have of country life and communities?

Methodology

Interviews and secondary data were used to examine the social dynamics of lifestyle migration in rural NSW and Victoria. Over fifty qualitative interviews were conducted to determine what barriers and drivers attract, sustain and retain this in-migrant group.

Outputs

Ragusa, A.T. (2012, accepted). **Changing Towns, Changing Culture: Examining Tree Changers' perceptions of Community in Australian Country Towns and Places.** In Martin, J. & Budge, T. (Eds). *The sustainability of Australia's Country Towns.* Bendigo, VIC: La Trobe University Press.

Ragusa, A.T. (2010). **Country landscapes, private dreams? Tree change and the dissolution of rural Australia.** In Whitford, T. & Blacklow, N. (Ed.). *Where the crows fly backwai notions of rural identity* (pp. 137-50). QLD: Post Pressed. ISBN: 978-1-921214-61-5.

Ragusa, A.T. (2010). **Seeking trees or escaping traffic? Socio-cultural factors and 'tree change' migration in Australia.** In Luck, G., R. Black & D. Race (Eds.). *Demographic change in rural landscapes: what does it mean for society and the environment?* (pp.71-100) Netherlands: Springer, ISBN: 978-90-481-9652-4.

Outcomes

The major outcomes of the study will be:

- Provision of cross-sectional representation of tree-changers, illustrating why individuals migrate to rural areas in Australia.
- Understanding of the barriers/resources influencing decisions to stay or leave rural communities by identifying 'tree changers' expectations and experiences

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