

Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Cultural Planning in Western Sydney

Dr Elaine Lally and Professor Bob Hodge, from the Centre for Cultural Research, are responding to the goals and demands for cultural planning in the information age. This ARC Linkage project with industry partners Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils Limited (WSROC) and Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE) will use digital infrastructure to boost the role of social and cultural values in strategic planning in Greater Western Sydney (GWS).



Dr Elaine Lally

'In a region experiencing rapid population growth and cultural diversification, it is vital to build a community that has the capacity and understanding to evolve with the changes' explained Dr Lally. 'It is necessary to provide progressive tools for planners and policy makers to manage the changing needs and aspirations of the community'.

Key individuals with cultural planning expertise within the region will be interviewed to find where information deficits limit current cultural planning practices. Documents such as the GWS Regional Cultural Strategy, the NSW Government's Cultural Planning Guidelines and the local cultural plans of GWS Councils will be used to identify information needs for cultural planning in the greater western Sydney region.

Researchers will adapt a Geographical Information System (GIS) to interface between 'hard' data and the 'soft' data of community aspirations and social values. The system will be organised into different layers of information and grouped into themes, with user-friendly coding systems and categories to put together information from many data sources. Planners can zoom up and down, trace connections and create networks at every level from community to region.



Prof. Bob Hodge

The outcome will be the creation of an innovative electronic cultural planning tool and strategies to match cultural, economic, social and environmental data relevant to strategic cultural planning in Greater Western Sydney.

Funding has been set at \$50,000

Project Title: *Bridging worlds, linking cultures: an electronic planning tool for the Western Sydney Region.*

July 2006

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