
Community case studies report

Southern Region

A project undertaken as part of the NSW Comprehensive Regional Assessments

November 1999

COMMUNITY CASE STUDIES

SOUTHERN REGION

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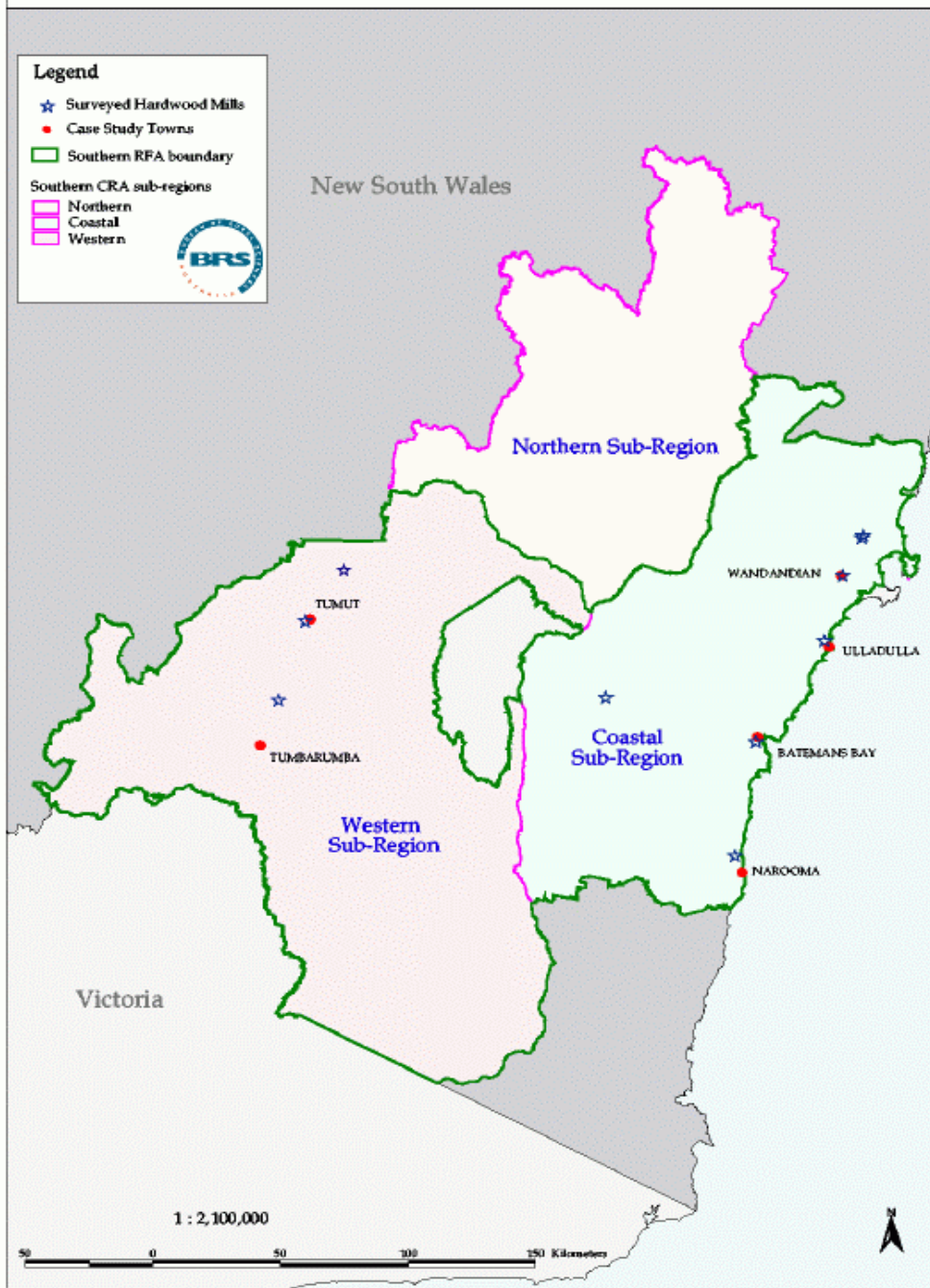
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Figure 1: Case Study Locations within the Southern CRA region, NSW.



1 INTRODUCTION

The following case study community profiles present a snapshot of communities in the Southern RFA Region NSW. These communities were selected in consultation with the Southern CRA Economic and Social Technical Committee and the Regional Forest Forum as communities likely to experience significant social impacts as a result of changes to forest management and land tenure. These communities are Narooma, Batemans Bay, Ulladulla, Wandandian, Tumbarumba and Tumut

The distribution of these communities within the Southern Region study area is shown in Map 1.

1.1 CASE STUDY TOWN—NAROOMA

1.1.1 History of settlement

Narooma, is a coastal town that is almost completely surrounded by the waters of the Wagonga Inlet, the estuary and the Pacific Ocean. Until 1972 Narooma was known as 'Noorooma', an Aboriginal name meaning 'blue water' or 'sacred stone'

In its early years, Narooma was a port for the transport of local produce, a ship building centre, and a timber cutting and sawmilling area. In 1906 Mitchell Brothers moved their sawmill operations from Port Stephens to Narooma leading to the establishment of a railway sleeper cutting industry in the area. A bridge built across the river in 1931 and the establishment of a steamship service along the south coast contributed to the development of Narooma as a holiday destination. Commercial fishing commenced in the 1930s and a fish cannery was established in 1940.

The town is now a popular tourist destination offering crystal clean water and beaches, and boating, aquatic sports, whale watching and big game fishing being popular activities. Surf beaches, golf courses and the Montague Island wildlife and marine life sanctuary and flora reserve are close by and offer a wide range of recreational choices.

The timber, shipbuilding and oyster farming industries continue to be integral to the viability of Narooma.

Significant forests in the area include Bodalla Forest Park, Bodalla State Forest and the Gulaga Flora Reserve.

1.1.2 Major events

Annual events include the Great Southern International Blues Festival that is held in October each year. Whale watching attracts large numbers of visitors to the region between mid-September and mid-November.

1.1.3 Population

In 1996 Narooma's population was 3 389. Over the 1991–1996 period the population increased by approximately 1% (1991:3 443 persons). Of the total 1996 population, 19% were aged between 0–15 years and 28% were aged 65 or more. This equates to a dependency ratio of 47%¹. The median age was 48 years, significantly higher than that of NSW (34 years).

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, PERSONS IN URBAN CENTRE NAROOMA

	Persons
Total persons	3389
Aged 15 years and over	2793
Aboriginal	73
Torres Strait Islander	0
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander	6
Australian born	2851
Born overseas: Canada, Ireland, NZ, South Africa, and USA	283
Born overseas: Other country	144
Born overseas: Total	427
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	3037
Speaks language other than English and aged 5 years and over	96
Australian citizen	3180
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	2497
Unemployed	155
Employed	931
In the labour force	1086
Not in the labour force	1668
Unemployment rate	14.3
Enumerated in private dwelling	3310
Enumerated in non-private dwelling	79
Persons enumerated same address 5 years ago	1770
Persons enumerated different address 5 years ago	1366
Overseas visitor	3

Source ABS 1996 census CDATE table

1.1.4 Employment and industry

The 1996 Census showed that 1 086 people (32% of the total population) were in the labour force. The unemployment rate was approximately 14% with 155 people looking for work. This was 5% higher than the NSW unemployment rate (9%).

Major industries were retail trade (20%), accommodation, cafés and restaurants (14%), education (8%), health (8%), construction (7%), agriculture, forestry and fishing (6%) and manufacturing (6%).

1.1.5 Income

The median household income was \$386 per week, much lower than the NSW median of \$655 per week and the NSW rural household weekly median income of \$573. The median individual income was \$198 per week.

¹ Dependency ratios: the proportion of persons in the community not earning an income from participating in the labour force including those aged 0 to 15 years and those aged 65 years and over compared to the total population.

1.1.6 Health

The Narooma community does not have a hospital but is serviced by the hospital at Moruya which provides a range of outreach services. These include:

- geriatric services and the audiometry services (through Australian Hearing Services) on a weekly basis;
- sexual health;
- Aboriginal Corporation community health;
- a foot clinic has recently closed but is expected to reopen soon;
- an aged care team located in Moruya provides some outreach services; and
- a travelling school dental van visits irregularly.

A community health service provides physiotherapy, mental health, speech therapy, community nursing, occupational therapy, drug and alcohol counselling, dietary and diabetic education, day care, and early childhood services. The service level is currently stable with waiting lists for most services and an ambulance that provides transport for people requiring hospital treatment at Moruya. The service will be upgraded in the near future and relocated to a new building.

1.1.7 Education

A range of educational facilities is located in Narooma. These include a government high school, a government primary school, and a special unit that assists emotionally disturbed children. Educational facilities for disabled students at primary and high school level are located in Moruya.

The majority of persons in Narooma (86%) were not attending educational institutions. Of the 14% who were in educational institutions, 8% attended infants and primary schools, and 6% attended secondary schools. Forty per cent of residents had left school at or before 15 years of age.

The following table identifies the number of people attending each educational sector during 1996.

EDUCATION

Educational sectors	Persons
Pre-school	42
Infants/Primary School	283
Secondary School	206
Technical/Further Education	48
University or other Tertiary Institutions	19
Other	7
Not attending	2650
Not stated	134
Overseas visitor	6
Total	3395

Source: ABS 1996 Census CDATA tables

1.1.8 Housing

In 1996 approximately 50% of homes in Narooma were fully owned, 13% were being purchased, and 31% were being rented or occupied rent free or under a life tenure system. Thirty one per cent of all properties were unoccupied. The high proportion of houses owned by non-residents may be a contributing factor to the relatively high home vacancy rate. The Eurobodalla Shire Council's 1997–98 Annual Report noted that 53% of general ratepayers lived in the Shire while a further 33% lived in the ACT, Queanbeyan or the Sydney metropolitan area. This may also explain the large number of uninhabited dwellings.

HOUSING

	Total
Total occupied private dwellings	1451
Fully owned	735
Being purchased	191
Being rented or occupied rent free or occupied under a life tenure system	454
Other/not stated	71
Unoccupied	445

Source: ABS 1996 Census of Population and Housing: Selected Characteristics for Urban Centres and Localities: NSW and ACT

The median monthly housing loan repayment in 1996 for Narooma was \$639 compared to \$780 for the whole of the Southern region and \$906 in NSW. Median rent was \$110 per week.

1.1.9 Communications

Narooma has no local radio station but is served by 2ER FM in Moruya and 2EC Power FM in Batemans Bay. The *Narooma Area News* is the local paper and *The Baypost Southern Star* also covers the region. The town has one Internet provider, Sci Net.

1.1.10 Community services

Narooma has a wide range of community services but some are shared with Moruya and Batemans Bay. These include library services, a transport service for the frail and disabled, an alcoholic rehabilitation service, meals on wheels, a nursing mother's association and a police station. The town has a hostel for disabled people.

The town also has an after-school care and vacation care centre in the local primary school and a public swimming pool. A new library is under development, and a visitors centre is located prominently on the Princes Highway.

1.1.11 Outcomes of Narooma community workshop

Held: Tuesday 22 June 1999

Groups represented: chamber of commerce, the timber industry, State Forests NSW, Narooma High School, community health, LSCCMC (Catchment Management), Whale Coast Realty, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Narooma Taxi Service, Eurobodalla Riding for the Disabled, the Catholic Church and the Narooma Visitors Centre.

Significant events

What have been the significant events in your community since 1980?

Date	Event
Early 70s – 1985	Major dislocation—cannery closed, closure of sawmills and spot mills.
late 70s	Golf course doubled.
late 70s	Breakwater built.
1980–85	Significant building activity.
1981–82	Construction of the High School.
1982	Narooma Plaza built. Dislocated the town into 3 centres of activity—ultimately a bad planning decision.
1982	Harris Daishawa extended processing of head and butt residues which doubled employment in the industry.
1983–84	Nursing home built.
1984	Catholic church built—old one relocated, affected development in the main street since shops erected on the old site (Anglican Church also built)- new carpark at old church.
1985–86	300 site caravan park built.
1987	High school destroyed by fire.
1988	Tourist Information Centre built.
Late 80s	Rejection of developments for major international hotel like St Kilda or Oaklands.
1989	Lawlers Creek Sawmill burnt down—rebuilt soon after.
1990+	Slump in building activity—no real growth in 10 years
1990-	Eurobodalla Council had a policy of not providing financial support for development.
1990	Parklands development (Villas) People selling previous houses (1/2 way through development). This is affecting the building industry as there's only one developer. Declining interest rates affected disposable income of retirees in turn affecting business (70% are retired). Young people are leaving town because of a decline in the building industry.
1991	School rebuilt.
1991	Whale watching and tours to Montague Island began. Now up to 6000 tourists per year.
1991	A more structured and coordinated approach to development began to take place across the Eurobodalla Shire.
1993–94	Olympic pool covered and heated—community raised money for it.
1993	Oaklands' conference centre development proposal rejected.
1995–96	Commenced Aboriginal cultural tours to Gulaga Mountain—Umbarra Cultural tours.
1996	State Forests office downgraded and new regional office established at Batemans Bay—reduced staff from 7 to 4.
1997	Established an Aboriginal dental service for the whole area.
In process	Foreshore development and beautification with input from the community.

How did the community manage these events?

Positive event—change of focus in community: opening of High School, cultural tours, whale watching and foreshore development

It began as a rates equity issue. (Why are funds being spent elsewhere?). Needed a quick solution to Council embarrassment. The Community supported it.

Narooma was a popular tourist area in the 1950s. Charter companies and the community promoted whale watching and kick-started the movement. Foreshore development has been driven by the Chamber of Commerce with lots of community consultation. It has also included input from Aboriginal groups. They have provided sponsorship of sites etc. The Narooma Tourist Association provided a framework for success.

Now Narooma is adjusting to change in tourist habits. People are coming for shorter stays but are seeking better quality accommodation. Narooma can't offer 4–5 star accommodation.

The Aboriginal community in Narooma has promoted tours seeing it as a way of promoting the identity of the community and Aboriginal culture. National Parks and State Forests have cooperated on the ventures. It provides an education to city kids.

Negative event—intention to develop the St Kilda and Oaklands site and rejection of proposal

It's a manifestation of the problem that surrounds Narooma. Narooma is perceived as a sleepy seaside town. It's not seen as a 'node for tourism' in the Shire. There is a perception that there is a negative representation on Council.

The development was rejected on environmental grounds because of the building height and because the proposed site was on a steep slope. A group of business people objected to the development, and some significant landholders were reluctant to be involved in the development also. The land was sold a few years ago but still nothing happened.

Families have voted with their feet and have moved out as it is a tough place to generate wealth. Most are working for low rates or working in other towns. There are minimal prospects for youth to gain employment. More of the 17–24 year age group leave than in other rural communities, but they return at a later date.

There is an inherent resistance to change in the community as a result of the aged population. We import resistance to change.

1.1.12 Community feelings about Narooma

How do you feel about your community?

- It's a great place. We need more people and more money.
- The place needs a rev up. It's stagnating.
- It lacks intellectual capacity and drive.
- It's a difficult place to do business in.
- I love it but I am concerned that it's perceived to be a retirement town.
- It has pristine waters, clean air, low noise pollution and I'm glad my children can grow up in this environment.
- I thoroughly enjoy living here. I get positive comments from visitors.
- It has a distinct lack of community spirit.
- It's factionalised into interest groups.
- We need to generate a stronger sense of unity, community and identity.
- We get little support from the Council to get things moving in Narooma but lots of support from the community. Council even voted against the five year management plan as it involved spending money.
- There's a general feeling in the community that they can't change things but they could if they got together.
- A drawback is the lack of employment for young people. We educate them then export them. It's a drain on the community.
- It's a lovely place to live. We need a little more industry and development in the place.

1.1.13 Visions for Narooma

What are your visions for the community?

- It's a lovely place to live. We need to preserve the best of the environment, but you've got to make a living.

- I'd like to see more tourists all year round. Not so seasonal.
- More development to attract more tourists and encourage more kids to stay here.
- Support for small business development which is community led. Big business is not community oriented.
- Sensitive development to provide more opportunities for young people.
- We need social/economic/environmental development to attract people 35–50 years old.
- There are no deep family roots here as most aren't born here. We need to encourage better community balance, age range and industry development.
- I want community to look at the reasons why we CAN do things.
- A more united community where people think of others rather than themselves. We also need environmentally friendly development and industry.
- The community needs to become great hosts and ambassadors for the town.
- Leadership for the community.
- A small number of people who 'can do' and a collective common vision with commercial experience and skills. The different towns in the area compete with each other. The clubs are currently the biggest employers.

1.1.14 Responses to forest use options

Workshop participants were asked to look at three broad scenarios for forest management. The tables below have been structured to reflect the group's priorities.

Scenario A—What would be the social impacts in Narooma if areas currently deferred are reserved for conservation and other uses?

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Less disturbance in the catchment leading to change in water quality and less disturbance of flora and fauna. Timber cutting disturbs the environment. ■ Will have more comprehensive National Park and reserve system. ■ Promote the identity of the area as a key National Park area in a country which has only 6 per cent of forested land. ■ Preservation of some Aboriginal sites. ■ May bring tourists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There would be a loss of direct jobs in the timber industry. ■ People would lose jobs and leave town. ■ There will be a flow-on effect from losses of jobs in the timber industry to other areas of employment in the town—a threshold effect. ■ Reduction in potential for industry and development. ■ Reduction in Aboriginal employment in the timber industry. ■ Possible increased risk of large fires. ■ If not sufficient funding, the access to parks may not be maintained and may have a negative impact on tourism development. ■ If the area is taken away, the resource from State Forests won't be available for town's needs (timber for building etc). ■ Potential loss of 20% in forests might cause flow-on of 80% in town employment—helps another town up the road.

Scenario B—What would be the social impacts in Narooma if areas currently deferred become available for the timber industry and other uses?

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Things the community can do while forests are under State Forests hands that you can't do under National Parks (such as horse riding and four wheel driving). ■ Gives us potential to value add (and associated employment). ■ Forestry is a wealth creating industry whereas National Parks are not. ■ Would create confidence in the timber industry to invest in the future. ■ Maintenance or increase in employment in the timber industry. ■ Forest will last longer. ■ Forestry can be managed as a proper and better forest. Proper management = sustainable forestry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We wouldn't reach the objectives for a reserve system set by the governments (15% of each forest type pre 1750).

Scenario C—What would be the social impacts in Narooma if 50% of the forest areas currently deferred become available for timber and other uses and 50% of the forest areas currently deferred become available for conservation and recreation?

There was no community response to this scenario.

1.2 CASE STUDY TOWN—BATEMANS BAY

1.2.1 History of settlement

Batemans Bay is located at the mouth of the Clyde River and was named by Captain James Cook in 1770 after Nathaniel Batemans the Captain of the *Northumberland*.

The sale of land in 1841 allowed settlement to begin and by 1859 the township of Batemans Bay was laid out. The timber trade was an important and profitable industry from the start. Initially Nelligen, upstream on the Clyde River, was the focus of activity and prior to 1870 the Bay settlement grew slowly.

The opening of the Princes Highway in 1920 and the increased use of the car in the 1920s and 1930s laid the foundations for post war growth largely based on holiday and tourist traffic. By the time the bridge over the Clyde was opened in 1956, the town had become the centre of the local dairying and fishing industries, and was particularly renowned for its oysters and crayfish.

1.2.2 Major events

Annual events in Batemans Bay include 'Bayfest' the Clyde River Festival held in November, the Boating Expo and family fishing carnival held in March and the Carroll College Art and Crafts Show held in June.

1.2.3 Population

In 1996 Batemans Bay population was 9 568. During the 1991–1996 period the population increased by 15% (1991:8 320 persons). Of the total population 21% were aged between 0–15

years and 24% were aged 65 or more. This equates dependency ratio of 45%. The median age was 42, significantly higher than that of NSW (34 years).

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS: PERSONS IN URBAN CENTRE BATEMANS BAY

	Persons
Total persons	9568
Aged 15 years and over	7647
Aboriginal	287
Torres Strait Islander	0
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander	11
Australian born	7846
Born overseas: Canada, Ireland, NZ, South Africa, and USA	784
Born overseas: Other country	527
Born overseas: Total	1311
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	8300
Speaks language other than English and aged 5 years and over	388
Australian citizen	8858
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	6785
Unemployed	508
Employed	2804
In the labour force	3312
Not in the labour force	4159
Unemployment rate	15.3
Enumerated in private dwelling	9149
Enumerated in non-private dwelling	419
Persons enumerated same address 5 years ago	4180
Persons enumerated different address 5 years ago	4427
Overseas visitor	46

Source: ABS 1996 census CDATA table

1.2.4 Employment and industry

The 1996 Census showed that 3 312 people (approximately 35% of the total population) were in the labour force. The unemployment rate was 15% with 508 persons looking for work. This was approximately 6% higher than the NSW unemployment rate.

Major industries were retail trade (22%), accommodation, cafes and restaurants (13%), construction (8%), manufacturing (7%), and property and business services (7%).

1.2.5 Income

The median household income was \$413 per week much lower than the NSW median of \$655 per week, and the NSW rural household weekly median income of \$573. Median individual income was \$218 per week.

1.2.6 Health

Batemans Bay has a 37 bed hospital which has an emergency service, a four bed intensive care facility, a 3 bed children's ward, a maternity ward and a combined surgical, medical, rehabilitation and general ward. Physiotherapy services are also available. This hospital is part of the Eurobodalla Shire medical service. The main hospital is at Moruya. All doctors and specialists are visiting medical officers.

The Batemans Bay Community Health Centre operates outside the hospital infrastructure and provides early childhood, podiatry services, a social worker, Aboriginal health, speech therapy, occupational therapy, women's health, counselling and mental health services.

1.2.7 Education

A range of educational facilities are located in Batemans Bay. These include one government and one non-government secondary school, three government and one non-government primary school, and one government and one non-government post secondary facilities.

The majority of persons in Batemans Bay (76%) were not attending educational institutions. Of those who were, 51% attended infants and primary schools and 41% attended secondary schools. Attendance at government schools was almost three times that of persons attending non-government primary and secondary schools. Forty-five per cent of residents left school at or before 15 years of age.

The following table identifies the number of people attending each educational sector during 1996.

EDUCATION

Educational Sector	Persons
Pre-school	127
Infants/Primary School	901
Secondary School	552
Technical/Further Education	109
University or other Tertiary Institutions	54
Other	22
Not attending	7340
Not stated	416
Overseas visitor	46
Total	9567

Source: ABS 1996 Census of Population and Housing: Selected Characteristics for Urban Centres and Localities: NSW and ACT

1.2.8 Housing

In 1996, 49% of houses in Batemans Bay were fully owned, 15% were being purchased, and 32% were being rented or occupied rent free or under a life tenure system. Approximately 42% of all houses were unoccupied which probably reflects their status as a holiday home.

HOUSING

	Total
Total occupied private dwellings	3865
Fully owned	1900
Being purchased	575
Being rented or occupied rent free or occupied under a life tenure system	1227
Other/not stated	163
Unoccupied	1614

Source: ABS 1996 Census of Population and Housing: Selected Characteristics for Urban Centres and Localities: NSW and ACT

The median monthly housing loan repayment in 1996 was \$702 compared to \$780 in the Southern region and \$906 in NSW. Median rent was \$110 per week.

1.2.9 Communications

The *Bay Post* and the *South Coast Register* serve Batemans Bay. In addition *The Canberra Times* covers the Batemans Bay area. Batemans Bay also has a radio station—radio 2EC/Power FM, and two local Internet service providers.

1.2.10 Community service

Batemans Bay has a range of community services including respite/neighbour aid services, children's disability respite, family day care, out of school hours care, community transport, community options program, post school options program, attendant care scheme, and supported accommodation. An Aboriginal consultative committee has been established and a self-help community grants scheme has been received.

Other services include a library which is part of the Eurobodalla Shire Library network, a public hall and community centre, swimming pool, a visitor information centre and numerous sports grounds and public reserves.

The Ageing and Disability Department will be moving to the Southern Highlands in the near future.

1.2.11 Outcomes of Batemans Bay community workshop

Held Monday 21 June 1999

Groups represented: forest users, education, chamber of commerce, emergency services, senior citizens, NSW Farmers Association, Forest Protection Society, CFMEU, environmental groups, State Forests NSW, communications, catchment management, landcare, local government and health services.

Significant events

What have been the significant events in your community since 1980?

Date	Event
1956	Batemans Bay Bridge opened. Previously crossing the river had to be done by punt.
1964	Bridge opened over Nelligen (no more punts).
1978	First year sewerage in Shire—\$13m in early 1990s in north Batemans Bay. Further \$11m investment soon.
1980–90	Greater awareness of community issues by the Council.
1980s	Opening of Carroll College and other schools.
1980s	Landfill and recycling upgraded
1980	1st deputation from community to Council
1981	Opening of Broulee link road.
1981	Deep Creek Dam construction. Moruya River had dried up. It overcame water restrictions.
1983	First mall type shopping centre built (Woolworths).
1986+	Increase in population by 41%. 24% of population is aged over 65yrs. 23% are aged less than 15 yrs. This has put pressure on the Shire. The number of persons aged 18–24 has been constant and is expected to remain constant until 2000.
1986 +	Higher level of unemployment and welfare.
1988	Building of Batemans Bay High School.
1988	Opening of Sunshine Bay Primary.
1988	Dismantling of Perry's Handle Factory. It closed in 1980. Formerly employed 50 people.
1989?	Batemans Bay recognised as a regional centre.
1990+	Growth in the number of retirement villages.
1990	All Crown land in area committed for 'purposes'. ie Crown, National Park, State Forest.
1993 & 1997	Major rural restructuring in health administration.
1995+	Clubs undertook renovations—around \$14million.
1995	Opening of Police Station.
1996–97	Formation of Eurobodalla NP and addition of Diamond Catchment area to National Park.
1996	Hospital upgraded—major upgrade to include operating theatre, nursery and new wards.
1997	Decision to relocate Batemans Bay Primary School.
1994	Bushfires on the whole of the southern edge of town, affecting the (timber) resource and the town.

How did the community manage these events?

Positive event—population growth and school openings and Batemans Bay being considered a regional centre

It was a small close-knit community. Half the people came from Canberra and it became a retirement area. They came from Victoria also. The opening of the bridges was critical. In the 1940s and 50s it took two days to get here from Sydney.

There was some impact from the building boom in the 1980s. There was also an impact from public servants taking redundancies, mostly early retirees, but the new settlers were not all old. There was also an increase in the number of people coming to the area to service retirees. They opened shops, had families and stayed after building boom. The town was a bit overwhelmed. It had no choice but to expand.

There has been a ribbon development along the coast. It's a great place to live and its recognised as a place to come. It had original families but new settlers made the community what it is.

Dynamic development is still under way and predicted to continue until next century. The town has a population of around 50 000 around Christmas.

Negative event—unemployment and population growing pains

There's been a fragmentation and decline of social structure in the community. There's been scapegoating of the youth and marginalisation of 'Aboriginals'. The town has a massive drug

problem related to a lack of opportunities. The age of 'users' is getting younger. It's no longer just surfies. Kids come home from school and there's nothing to do. Parents don't know what the kids are doing as they're both working.

The community values older people. It still has a village atmosphere, especially in some of the outlying villages.

The number of people aged 18 to 24 years has remained fairly static because there's not a great deal of post-secondary education and training. They need to go to Sydney, Melbourne or Canberra to get jobs and training. There are lots of casual jobs but there's no major industry. The young leave if there's no employment. Parents often disagree on opportunities for kids.

Moruya TAFE was rebuilt in the last couple of years. There will be new library access soon at Hanging Rock. It will be part of Wollongong University. Batemans Bay is a country town. Young people are slightly discouraged from correspondence courses as they're still in the same routine if they stay.

1.2.12 Community feelings about Batemans Bay

How do you feel about your community?

- Alive.
- Developing.
- It's got a lot of future.
- It's an ideal place to retire to.
- It's a positive and honest community.
- A great place to retire.
- I was born in Batemans Bay and I loved it with a small population—it's too big now.
- There's a lack of community cohesion
- I've got mixed feelings. It's sad because of things going on—unemployment.
- I feel positive about it.
- The potential is exciting.
- The centrepiece of Batemans Bay is the natural environment.
- Its service centre is fragmented. It doesn't have a central heart and development is in a fragmented, multi-faceted way.
- It's good but it needs more focus on younger people—even 18 to 24 year olds. More encouragement is needed.
- The place has great potential because it's got location, environment, and technology. I'm worried about the fragmentation
- I see three separate communities—Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma. Would like to see more emphasis on the rural aspects of the area—not just retirement and tourism.
- We need not be left behind. We need to return to rural values.

1.2.13 Visions for Batemans Bay

What are your visions for the community?

- Clean and green.

- Sustainable development we can all share.
- Need to tie community more closely—bring old and young together.
- Clean and green with a heart—too much fragmentation now.
- Greater self-sufficiency—too dependent on Canberra.
- Accentuating the positives (the town).
- Sustainable development tied to employment.
- A trend for increase in employment rather than unemployment. If this was the case, there'd be potential for 100 more years.
- Accentuate the rural farming heart. Development is unavoidable. We have had tourism boom and growth and now we need to go back to a sense of community and rural lifestyle—the things that made Batemans Bay attractive in the first place.
- Healthy industry to encourage employment.
- Focused and cohesive community with an emphasis on the future.
- Balance on environmental attitude of the Batemans Bay city area—not one type of growth overpowering the other.
- Employment for the young and not so young.
- More recreational facilities for youth.
- With population increase predicted we need to walk the fine line—we mustn't emulate the Gold Coast. We need to keep a balance between the density of growth with consideration of encroachment on the country areas.
- To live in a 'belonging' community that values each other's differences and where everyone has a sense of belonging (no-one's left out).

1.2.14 Reactions to forest use options

Workshop participants were asked to look at three broad scenarios for forest management. The tables below have been structured to reflect the priority each point was assigned by the group.

Scenario A—What would be the social impact on Batemans Bay if the forest currently deferred became reserved for conservation and recreation?

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public perception of ecotourism in Batemans Bay will increase. People feel that if there's a reserve system, the value is high. ■ Increase in other industries and increased employment opportunities, eg. Ecotourism. ■ Some increase in possibility of timber industry value-adding. ■ Re-employment of forest workers in other fields. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A high risk that Batemans Bay sawmill mill will close. ■ 64 jobs will be directly affected. There'll be spin offs (impacts) in the region as well. ■ Increase in imports. It will affect timber price, national debt and the global environment. ■ Will see resource doing nothing while we import resource. Not keeping money in the town and community—a waste of good timber resources. ■ Families of people directly involved would be under stress—possible increase in divorce and suicide. ■ Hard to find alternate employment for timber workers. ■ Changing emphasis in community away from rural industry to ecotourism—stand to lose historic identity of the forestry industry. ■ Possible increase in Aboriginal unemployment. The mill employs a significant number of Aborigines. Forestry workers are terribly hard to find jobs for. ■ Possibility that ecotourism might close/suffer because the area could be closed to camping and tourism.

Scenario B—What would be the social impacts on Batemans Bay if the forest areas that are currently deferred become available for timber and other industries?

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increased opportunities for timber employment, especially in value adding component. ■ Increased employment and prosperity. ■ If forest open then roads will be maintained and available to community The forest road network is valuable especially if community access is given ■ Can showcase the older rural industries, where we have come from as a community, ie Eden Forestry Centre shows value-adding and shows what we can do for the community and the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Timber workers may conflict with campers as logging activities may shut off access. ■ Possible loss of employment opportunities in other industries, eg ecotourism could be compromised.

Scenario C—What would be some of the social impacts in Batemans Bay if 50% of the forest areas currently deferred become available for timber and other uses and 50% of the forest areas currently deferred become available for conservation and recreation?

There was no community response to this scenario.

1.2.15 Other issues

Other issues raised in the workshop that were not included as responses to the scenarios were:

- Management of bushfire risk under any scenario (litter left on forest floor).
- Lack of value-adding facilities in an area adds to unemployment—wood resource shipped away.

- Local timber getters should be given a fair amount of timber. Local people should get the benefit of decisions—can use a more sustainable method of harvesting—more selective logging.
- Concerned about the amount of area available.
- Change in paradigm and culture to include re-skilling of forest workers in ecotourism and to incorporate increased employment and minimisation of forest impact although forest workers are terribly hard to find jobs for.

1.3 CASE STUDY TOWN—ULLADULLA

1.3.1 History of settlement

Ulladulla is a seaside resort located 227 km south of Sydney on the Princes Highway. The name Ulladulla originally applied to the area which ‘the settlement’, now Milton, and ‘boat harbour’, now Ulladulla, were located. There are a number of theories about the origin of the name Ulladulla. It is thought the name is a corruption of the Aboriginal word ‘Woollahderrah’ recorded by the first surveyor in the area, or ‘Null-ladolla’ used by an early settler in 1828. A further interpretation suggests the name is that the name is derived from the Aboriginal word meaning ‘safe harbour’. Holey Dollar was another name once given to the settlement after the colony’s unofficial currency.

Settlement of the area by timber harvesters began early in the 19th century and by 1840 Ulladulla was known as a timber port that transported red cedar. Ship building also commenced during the 1840s. The harbour became increasingly important to shipping and in 1879 a lighthouse, later removed to Warden Head, was built.

Other early industries included dairying, wheat growing (destroyed when ‘rust’ hit the south coast in the 1860s), pig rearing, honey production, maize and vegetable cultivation, tanning, and mining of silica and quartzite.

Tourism was first promoted late in the nineteenth century but did not become a major industry until the Princes Highway was built and the use of cars made the area accessible to the average worker. Along with tourism, commercial fishing has developed as an important industry with many of the fleet operated by descendants of the originators, the Puglisi family.

1.3.2 Major events

Markets are held at the Ulladulla wharf on the second Sunday of each month and each Easter there is the Blessing of the Fleet. A Scarecrow Festival is held in Milton the first Sunday after Easter. The annual Game Fishing Tournament is held late in January each year and the Sport Fishing Convention in late February or early March. In August the festival of Food and Wine by the Sea is held.

1.3.3 Population

In 1996 Ulladulla’s population was 8 384. Over the 1991–1996 period the population increased by approximately 14% (7 381 persons). Of these, 22% were aged between 0–15 years and 23% were aged 65 and over. This equates to a dependency ratio of approximately 46%. The median age was 42, significantly higher than that of NSW (34 years).

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS: PERSONS IN URBAN CENTRE ULLADULLA

	Persons
Total persons	8384
Aged 15 years and over	6623
Aboriginal	108
Torres Strait Islander	16
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander	8
Australian born	7093
Born overseas: Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, UK and USA	596
Born overseas: other	407
Born overseas: total	1003
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	7280
Speaks language other than English and aged 5 years and over	307
Australian citizen	7863
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	5902
Unemployed	455
Employed	2344
In the labour force	2799
Not in the labour force	3708
Unemployment rate	16.3
Enumerated in private dwelling	8310
Enumerated in non-private dwelling	74
Persons enumerated same address 5 years ago	4086
Persons enumerated different address 5 years ago	3450
Overseas visitor	25

Source: ABS 1996 census CDATA table

1.3.4 Employment and Industry

The 1996 Census showed that 2 799 (approximately 33% of the total population) were in the labour force. The unemployment rate was over 16% with 455 people looking for work.

Major industries were retail trade (20%), accommodation, cafes and restaurants (11%), health and community services (9%), manufacturing (8%) wholesale trade (8%), and education (7%).

1.3.5 Income

The 1996 Census showed the median household income for Ulladulla was \$406 per week, significantly less than the \$655 per week for NSW, and the NSW rural household weekly median income of \$573. The median weekly individual income was \$202.

1.3.6 Health

The Milton-Ulladulla Hospital has 21 beds. The hospital provides casualty, medical and maternity services as well as minor surgical and physiotherapy services.

The Ulladulla Community Health Centre provides a range of services on either a full time, part-time or casual basis. These include a general community nurse; early childhood services; a social worker; a psychiatrist; women's health, sexual assault, mental health; podiatry; dietary; aged and palliative care, hearing, meals on wheels, dental, and drug and alcohol. Due to space constraints these services are disseminated within a number of buildings.

Patients requiring rehabilitation are sent to the David Berry Hospital in Carinya. Children are sent to Nowra or Wollongong. The Shoalhaven Hospital at Nowra (about 70 km north of Ulladulla) also provides intensive care services.

Ulladulla has an ambulance station that operates 24 hours a day. It has three ambulances and six personnel.

1.3.7 Education

A wide range of educational institutions is located in Ulladulla. These include one government and one non-government secondary schools and two government and one non-government primary schools. Technical and further education facilities are also located in Ulladulla. University students usually attend the University of Wollongong.

The Budawang School for Specific Purposes caters for students between the 4 and 20 years old with severe to moderate disabilities and employs four teachers and three other staff. The School is one of two for disabled people in the Shoalhaven LGA, the other is in Nowra. The school accepts students from throughout NSW provided they have accommodation. Most students reside with their families.

The majority of persons in Ulladulla (75%) are currently not attending educational institutions. Of those who are, 49% attend infants and primary schools and 29% attend secondary school. Forty-seven percent of the population aged 15 years or over left school aged 15 years or younger.

The following table identifies the number of people attending each educational sector during 1996.

EDUCATION

Educational sector	Persons
Pre-school	159
Infants/primary school	853
Secondary school	504
Technical or further education institution	150
University or other tertiary institution	44
Other	24
Not attending	6268
Not stated	356
Overseas visitor	25
Total	8383

Source: ABS CDATA 1998

1.3.8 Housing

In 1996, 56% of houses in Ulladulla were fully owned, 15% were being purchased, and 25% were being rented or occupied rent free or under a life tenure system. Approximately 42% of all houses were unoccupied which probably reflects their status as a holiday home.

HOUSING

	Total
Total occupied private dwellings	3473
Fully owned	1957
Being purchased	513
Being rented or occupied rent free or occupied under a life tenure system	875
Other/not stated	128
Unoccupied	1559

Source: ABS 1996 Census of Population and Housing: Selected Characteristics for Urban Centres and Localities: NSW and ACT

The median monthly home loan repayment was \$693. Median weekly rent was \$120.

1.3.9 Communications

Ulladulla is served by the *Shoalhaven and Nowra News* and the *Milton-Ulladulla Times*. Reception is available for radio stations 2ST AM, 2ST FM, Power FM, ABC FM Illawarra and 2UUU FM as well as community radio. The area is served by regional television stations Prime, Ten Capital and Win (based in Wollongong). Ulladulla has two local Internet service providers.

1.3.10 Community services

In 1998, Ulladulla provided a range of support services for people with disabilities, including employment, housing, transport and respite services. A range of services for the elderly including homecare, meals on wheels, social clubs and transport services were also available.

Other services located in Ulladulla include a youth centre; an Aboriginal Educational Consultative Group; the Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club; the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol; State Emergency Service; NRMA road service; various sport clubs; a skateboard complex; a BMX track; three swimming pools; 10 churches; twin cinemas, police, fire brigade and ambulance stations, and a library.

1.3.11 Outcomes of Ulladulla community workshop

Held: Wednesday 23 June 1999

Groups represented: Shoalhaven City Council Visitors Centre, Ulladulla Lions Club, Ulladulla High School, Australia Post, Ulladulla Sport and Game Fishing Club, Ulladulla Harbour Task Force, State Forests NSW, Shoalhaven City Council, local government representative, farmers, Romney Park Sawmill, Leo's Club Ulladulla, The Advertiser (Newspaper), senior citizens, Community Resource Centre, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Forest Protection Society, Horse Riders.

Significant events

What have been the significant events in your community since 1980?

Date	Event
1951+	Blessing of the Fleet Production—Annual event that returned after a 20-year break.
1963+	Demise of dairy industry (74 dairy farms in 1963, now 9 as a result of quotas becoming negotiable).
1970s	Subdivision of former farms led to bigger farms becoming more viable.
1980s	Building of Sarah Claydon retirement village.
1983	State Surf Titles held in Ulladulla.
1984	TAFE moved from Milton.
1984	Ulladulla Civic Centre rebuilt.
mid 1980s to late 1990s	Growth in tourist industry (including various types of tourism and cultural activities)
mid 1980s	Increase in area managed by National Parks and creation of Wilderness areas in the region. Wilderness Legislation introduced
late 1980s	Closure of Boral/Alan Taylor Mill
late 1980s	Closure of Davis and Herbert Mill (both mills—2 to 3 shifts then 1 shift then closure)
Late 1980s	Influx of retirees impacted on property prices and social balance. Interest rate drop led to decline in spending power. This had an impact on health services due to the aging population. This was followed by an exodus of people because of the lack of medical services and inadequate hospital
1989	Introduction of NHT and Landcare funds into the region.
1990	Shoalhaven Anglican School started as a Primary School and evolved into a High School.
1990–91	Fishing quotas introduced (including bicatch quota). This increased profitability.
1993 +	Increased activity of Aboriginal community and land grants to community. Development of land into walking tails etc.
1995	Introduction of Coastcare funds into region.
1995–96	Police station moved from Milton.
1995+	Problems getting development projects through leads to frustration in local area due to problems with land availability and legislation. Aggravated by indigenous land claims and coverage of Crown Land—have to go through very complex processes to get development.
1996	Milton/Ulladulla vision structure plan and community consultation which led to the decision for a by-pass.
1997	Building of skate park
1997	Endangered species of frog found.
March 1998	Opening of Coles Supermarket.
1998	Construction and building of leisure centre and heated pool.
1998	Skate frenzy—national skateboarding event.
1998	Warped tour of Milton—bands/BMX/Skateboards.
1998	Renovation of Milton Theatre.
1998	Grant of \$300 000 to address pollution in Ulladulla Harbour including education component. A big improvement in the harbour.
1998	Reconciliation Festival.

How did the community manage these events?

Positive event: Increase in tourism

It was triggered by marketing, promotion and early retirees. More people came from Sydney than Victoria. There has been lots of marketing of the area since 1985. The area is the new alternative to the North Coast NSW. It has lower land prices, quieter lifestyle, natural beauty and surf.

The community has mixed feelings about tourism. Tourists are called 'terrorists' by some locals. The Council analysed the reasons for these mixed feelings. They assigned more community funds for programs, ie. tourism association, festivals, food and wine festival, scarecrow festival, settlers fair. Locals also do some promotion of the area, but it comes to the point where tourism is spoiling the values promoted. This is a concern.

The big problem is the short season. The town is trying to encourage all year round tourism. Tourism comes at cost to services and infrastructure. We need to flatten this peak.

The town needs a five star hotel. There was uproar over proposals for developments of three or more storeys. We need to question the limits of how far we want to go.

Negative event: Increased development protocols for development of community facilities

This is limiting development. The community is involved in bigger picture projects.

We've been seeking appropriate land for sporting facilities etc. but projects have been held up.

The community supports community development and has demonstrated this by being involved in lobbying, meetings, taskforces, and advisory committees. The problem is that there are too many stakeholders so it's hard to get consensus on a project. Someone always has objections. For example we've been trying to get a Go Kart facility, and keep running into problems associated with getting a parcel of land that answers legislative barriers.

The convoluted and lengthy process for approvals leads to frustration. It's hard for the community to address this. The Skate Park development was successful after 17 years (from the initial stage of development to a current larger complex).

Development can be seen in the negative. It's mostly on Crown land but some land is privately owned. Crown land is now limited. There's no level playing field. It's government agencies versus community interest. Although accessing funding access has not been a problem. It seems that State Government has no problem getting roads approved but local industry has problems.

1.3.12 Community feelings about Ulladulla

How do you feel about your community?

- Happy. It's changed a lot—not always for the better but I'll stay. It's the best of both worlds (farm and city).
- There are problems with the skateboard ramp. I'm happy in the community.
- It's good for young people, the youth facilities are here.
- It's a fascinating community. I absolutely love living here.
- It provides a good environment for the young. The pluses outweigh the minuses if you can generate your own fun.
- I think it's pretty good but it's not recognised that we need to provide for growth and recognise the needs of young and old.
- The climate etc, lends itself to an influx of a range of different types of people. There's an impact on the community as growth is ahead of resources.
- The size and spread of the community is good. It's small enough so it's not impersonal but large enough for privacy.
- I've been here 40 years. I couldn't imagine a better place to live. Not all changes have been for the better. There's not enough work for kids. They have to leave paradise for work.
- It's a great place. I left 40 years ago and returned. It's a beautiful area. The services need to be better and faster.

- I'm proud of this community. I wasn't happy 15 years ago. Development is better now. The community is working together on things like planting projects and there's a sense of community. Will be worthwhile. We're getting somewhere now.
- I love the place. I've been here 16 years. I'm worried about the pressures of development. It's coming too quickly. Employment is a problem. The town needs bread and butter industry here as tourism is seasonal and not full time employment.
- Community groups are all having a go without seeking recognition. They're putting in a lot of work.
- There's been an enormous amount of energy from the community channelled into making the city a better place. It's a privilege to live here. I can't imagine a better place. There's a spectrum of people and values but still a balance. Blessed to be here.
- I'm lucky. There are beaches, bush, proximity to cities. People are supportive and friendly.

1.3.13 Visions for Ulladulla

What are your visions for your community?

- A bigger library.
- Sensible, sensitive, sustainable development.
- Increased awareness and protection of the environment.
- Decentralisation of city commercial activities to Ulladulla and flow on to employment.
- I see forestry as a great provider for employment opportunities and a viable industry with a long-term future.
- Care of forestry. A sustainable, renewable industry and replanting.
- A limit placed on development of the area, ie as in the Byron Bay area. No more development in some places.
- Continuation of sustainable development including involvement of community and local government.
- A turn around so community relies less on service organisations (ie. Lions Clubs etc) and volunteers.
- Maintain clean, green environment. Maintain sensible planning and growth in youth employment. I would like to see a community that demonstrates tolerance not selfishness.
- For people to use the harbour as an asset instead of as a tip and enhance approaches to the town from the north and south.
- Preservation of beaches and natural environment for health lifestyle.
- More employment and TAFE courses for young people so they don't have to move away.
- A final environment plan that caters for all values—and with an end!
- Ulladulla has benefited from the demise of Milton (There has been a closure of Westpac bank and the police station in Milton). I'd like to return Milton to its former glory.

1.3.14 Reaction to forest use

Workshop participants were asked to look at three broad scenarios for forest management. The tables below have been structured to reflect the priority each point was assigned by the group.

Scenario A—What would be the social impacts in Ulladulla if areas currently deferred (set aside) are reserved for conservation and recreation?

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increase in ecotourism and associated facilities ■ Areas conserved so our children can go into the bush and see it as it is in its natural state. ■ Possible increase in value-adding (what is lost will be made up) ■ Increased protection of endangered species ■ Protect water quality in catchment ■ Increased number of jobs in land management ■ Increased protection of area from activities such as landfill ■ Increased number of jobs in ecotourism ■ Utilise existing forest roads so no extra impact on environment ■ Nil impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ More money needed from public purse to administer National Parks ■ Could lead to increased imports of timber and loss of employment and loss of decision to live in a timbered house ■ Close down timber industry—more pressure on environment through use of other building materials ■ Everyday users could be locked out, ie 4WD, walkers and horse riding ■ Likelihood of more feral animals ■ Increased bushfire activity when areas are 'returned to nature' ■ Loss of grazing leases in the new National Parks ■ Increased risk for safety of bushfire brigade ■ Closing of deferred areas of State Forests means people have to travel further to get resource ie. firewood ■ Nil Impact

Scenario B—What would be the social impacts on Ulladulla if areas currently deferred (set aside) become available for the timber industry and other uses?

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Benefit if locally produced, processed and sold here ■ Land for community may be more easily accessible ■ Huge impact on employment and security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No benefit to local community if timber shipped out without value-adding. ■ Loss of incentives for value-adding ■ Visual scarring of forests and clear felling close to roads and urban areas

Scenario C—What would be the social impact on Ulladulla if 50% of areas currently set aside are reserved for conservation and recreation and 50% become available to the timber industry and other uses?

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Possible increase in ecotourism 	

1.4 CASE STUDY TOWN—WANDANDIAN

1.4.1 History of settlement

Wandandian is a small village on the Princes Highway, around half an hour's drive south of Nowra. The name Wandandian means 'home of lost lovers'.

Wandandian was first settled by Europeans in the 1850s and settlement became more pronounced in the 1880s with extensive clearing of land for farms occurring at this time. Farming, timber cutting and then dairying were the initial industries in the town.

In the late 1880s, a sawmill was built at Wandandian and at Basin View, however the Basin View mill burnt down in 1909 and operations moved to the Wandandian mill. By the 1920s up to 30 bullock teams operated in timber harvesting operations in the surrounding forests

cutting logs, sleepers, girders, wharf poles, and boat building timbers. Sawmilling is still a major industry today, although timber is now hauled-in from other areas rather than being cut locally.

At the peak of Wandandian's population in the 1950s, 57 children attended the local school. In 1969, the community developed a hall and extended this facility to include a sports complex in the 1980s. The school, the post office and the church were closed in the 1970s.

Subdivision of a number of larger properties in the early 1990s has meant hobby farms have replaced dairying in importance. Arts and crafts and automotive services are important retailing sectors.

Wandandian is close to the Yerriyong, Jerrawangala and Conjola State Forests.

1.4.2 Major events

Wandandian has an annual woodchopping event which is held on the October long weekend.

1.4.3 Population

In 1996 the Wandandian's population was 309. Over the 1991–1996 period the population increased slightly by 2% (1991:302 persons). Of the total 1996 population more than 25% were aged between 0–15 years and 7% was aged 65 and over. This equates to a dependency ratio of approximately 31%. The median age was 38 years. This was higher than that of NSW (34 years).

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS: PERSONS IN URBAN CENTRE

	Persons
Total persons	309
Aged 15 years and over	237
Aboriginal	9
Torres Strait Islander	0
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander	0
Australian born	263
Born overseas: Canada, Ireland, NZ, South Africa, and USA	21
Born overseas: Other country	9
Born overseas: Total	30
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	267
Speaks language other than English and aged 5 years and over	6
Australian citizen	284
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	204
Unemployed	17
Employed	127
In the labour force	144
Not in the labour force	85
Unemployment rate	11.8
Enumerated in private dwelling	309
Enumerated in non-private dwelling	0
Persons enumerated same address 5 years ago	169
Persons enumerated different address 5 years ago	99
Overseas visitor	0

Source: ABS 1996 census CDATA table

1.4.4 Employment and industry

The 1996 Census showed that 114 people (almost 37% of the total population) in Wandandian were in the labour force. The unemployment rate was approximately 12% with 17 people looking for work. This was considerably higher than the NSW rate (9%).

The major industries were retail trade (16%), manufacturing (13%), construction (12%), agriculture, fishing and forestry (10%) and property and business services (8%).

1.4.5 Income

The median household income for Wandandian in the 1996 Census was \$620 per week, less than the NSW median of \$655 per week, but higher than the NSW rural household weekly median income of \$573. Median individual income was \$233 per week.

1.4.6 Health

No health services are located in Wandandian. Some medical and related services can be accessed from Sussex Inlet, St George's Basin, Vincentia or Huskisson. Hospital services are offered at Nowra (Shoalhaven District Hospital) and Milton (Milton-Ulladulla Hospital).

1.4.7 Education

There are no longer any schools in Wandandian. Primary school children attend school at Basin View, around 5kilometres north of Wandandian or at St Georges Basin. Secondary students travel to Nowra, Vincentia or Shoalhaven High. A small Technology High School in Nowra, and a small university annexe outside Berry provide some post secondary educational opportunities for Wandandian students.

Less than 30% of Wandandian residents were attending educational institutions. Thirty five per cent had left school at 15 years of age or earlier. The majority of those holding qualifications hold a skilled vocational qualification in the broad fields of Engineering, Architecture and Building or Business and Administration.

The following table identifies the number of people attending each educational sector during 1996.

EDUCATION

Educational sector	Persons
Pre-school	3
Infants/Primary School	32
Secondary School	22
Technical/Further Education	11
University or other Tertiary Institutions	6
Other	0
Not attending	224
Not stated	17
Overseas visitor	0
Total	315

Source: ABS CDATA tables

1.4.8 Housing

In 1996, 48% of houses in Wandandian were fully owned, 16% were being purchased, 16% were being rented or occupied rent free or under a life tenure system. Approximately 17% of all houses were unoccupied.

HOUSING

	Total
Total occupied private dwellings	143
Fully owned	68
Being purchased	23
Being rented or occupied rent free or occupied under a life tenure system	23
Other/not stated	5
Unoccupied	24

Source: ABS 1996 Census of Population and Housing: Selected Characteristics for Urban Centres and Localities: NSW and ACT

To preserve confidentiality in this small sample, median monthly home repayments and median weekly rent payments have not been identified for Wandandian

1.4.9 Communications

Wandandian is served by the *Inlet-Basin and Bay Times*, the *Shoalhaven Chronicle* and the *Shoalhaven and Nowra News*. Other papers that include Wandandian in their coverage include the *Milton-Ulladulla Express Newspaper* and the *Ulladulla Times*.

Radio station Power 94.9FM, Radio Station ABC Illawarra FM 97.3, Radio 2ST and Radio 2UUU 104.5FM are received in Wandandian.

Ten Capital, Win Television, Prime Television and ABC Television cover this area as well.

1.4.10 Community services

Wandandian has a hall, a rural fire brigade, a tennis court and a tennis club, but no other community services. Some services are accessed from Sussex Inlet and other nearby towns. The majority of services are accessed from Nowra.

1.4.11 Outcomes of Wandandian community workshop

Held: Thursday 24 June 1999

Groups represented: Forest Protection Society, State Forests NSW, senior citizens, apiarists, other forest users, timber transport, farmers, Wandandian Progress Association, community events organiser, small business, youth, housing, rural fire brigade, logging contractors, timber industry.

Significant events

What have been the significant events in Wandandian since 1980?

Date	Event
1987	Larger sawmill in the area bought by Herbert family from Boral (now D & P Timbers)
1980	World championship woodchopping event
1970	School closed (had 36 children enrolled)
mid 1980	Church closed
mid 1960	Progress Association Hall built by volunteers and owned by the community
mid 1970	Tennis Court built on Progress Association land
1986	Fire Brigade building built
mid 1980'	Post Office closed and incorporated as agency into general store
1980	Big bush fire. From the top of mountain to Sussex Inlet
1983	Town water introduced
Mid 1990s	More students catching High School bus
1982	Cleary Bros came to town (cement industry)
1997	Cleary Bros closed because they were required to contribute to road construction
late 1980s to early 1990s	Demographic profile changed although population remained stable or slightly increased. Blocks are being subdivided bringing lot of families to the area. There has been some farm subdivision. Wandandian has become an area for commuters who work in Nowra
	Active Progress Association, Fire Brigade and Sport and Recreation Association. These groups are active but small
1993	Red Cross Branch closed—Had been active for more than 50 years
1993	Small farms network and Bush Fire Brigade field day (previously held in 1980s)
1999	Threatened closure of fire brigade. Overcome by community lobbying

How did the community manage these events?

Positive event—development of Wandandian recreational reserve

(Discussion on the development of the Wandandian recreational reserve included grounds beautification and the development of fire brigade, tennis court, cricket nets and woodchop arena sites).

A grant was obtained with the help of Councillor Paul Bland. There was broad community support for the initiative. Community members were on the Committee and approached Council for assistance. The community raised funds from woodchops, frog races, endurance rides and cake stalls etc. A cabaret was held which raised funds for the Progress Association.

Community is less close now. The tennis court is hired on a regular basis, but there is no local competition. There is also social tennis Tuesdays and Wednesdays as well as night and weekend hire, but there is a move to centralise sport—a lot of it has now moved to Nowra.

Negative event—loss of services

When school closed due to declining enrolments, parents had to transport kids elsewhere because there were no bus services then. There have been buses introduced to Sussex Inlet and Tomerong in recent years. The Church was closed and sold due to lack of attendance. Some families moved at the same time. The church centralised and became bigger (and better).

Post Office statistics showed business had declined a bit so Australia Post services were downgraded, and we now have a franchise. Now the community can't pay their bills etc at local post office.

The community couldn't do much. We held a big public meeting with the Schools Authority who said the school wouldn't close for 6 months but it closed before the six months was up. Declining enrolments were linked to mill employment and other changes. The school was taken away on a truck.

People used to rely on the bush for jobs. The mill used to have 22 employees. There were seven houses attached to the sawmill. When people lost their jobs at the mill lots of younger families moved out.

It's a formula for killing the town. As it became harder for people, they started to move and access services in Nowra. Some people moved to get employment.

Despite the gloom the town is growing. It is attracting different people. Some are commuters who want rural five acres. Recently two families moved in.

1.4.12 Community feelings about Wandandian

How do you feel about your community?

- I'm not terribly involved. I was initially, but business has taken a lot of time. I'm still prepared to help the community.
- I don't consider myself a local. I've been here 20 years. The town and population have grown. I can see a future here.
- The mill is still operating. It's a good little community.
- I'm a Nowra girl and I live at Cambewarra. I work at the mill but I'm not part of the community. People are busier now.
- It's a lovely community. I've been here since 1989. It's close knit. I feel I've been made to feel part of the community. What affects one part of the community flows onto others.
- I don't mind living here but I feel isolated from my friends (in Vincentia).
- It's not a bad spot. I've been here all my life. The community doesn't pull together as much as it used to. Everyone goes off to work these days.
- It's a nice friendly community. I'd like it to stay as it is.
- It's home.
- It's a good community to live in. It's close knit. People look after each other.
- I could call on others any time of day or night. There's a good community spirit. We had Neighbourhood Watch before they even thought about it. There's not much for kids and they have to travel for sport, entertainment etc.
- Tennis is good but there's not a lot else here. You've got to travel for other sport. We need a decent walking track, not the highway; it's dangerous walking out there.
- I've lived here for more than 50 years and there have been a lot of changes since then. It's a close community but it's different now. I accept the modern change.
- When I came here it was like one big family but the school operated then and that made a difference. There were picnics, concerts and entertainment. Everyone knew one another. Time passed. The biggest problem now is to encourage newer residents to join in with the community and get involved in the Hall and other things.
- I'm not from Wandandian. I'm from Nowra but I've worked around here. I've met a lot of friendly people. I hate to think of there being no Wandandian.
- I sleep in a nearby community but I'm closer to the Wandandian community than my own town. I'm one of the last bush workers. There's a good feeling in Wandandian for the (timber) industry.

- As elected Captain of the emergency service I'm responsible for life and property. I think the people of Wandandian are brilliant. They always pull together. We're a bit fearful of a bushfire. The community can overcome anything.
- It's a good place to live. I'm scared about the for sale signs. We need more business here.

1.4.13 Visions for Wandandian

What are your visions for the community?

- To stop tourists driving through and get them to pull in instead.
- I'm committed to it. I opened up a welding shop. We should keep Wandandian going. It'll grow. But at what speed?
- I'm committed and dedicated to keeping a sustainable timber industry in this town.
- It's always been a timber area. It has to go on.
- As above. We need a sustainable timber industry. I wouldn't like to see the area closed to National Parks. It's a fire risk. I want a reason for the family to come back.
- The timber industry is very important. To keep access to logs would be good. I'll still be here regardless.
- The community has to stick together.
- There'll be a great prang here soon. We need to slow down the traffic to 60km (or enforce the 80km zone)
- For all people in the district to continue to make a living.
- For all people in the district to have full employment.
- For everything to stay. For the mill to stay open and the timber industry to stay.
- State forests need to look into things like replanting and better practice. Now they're taking smaller logs. The Council should get off people's back and let people have a go.
- It's good the way it is. We should keep going the way it is.
- For all aspects of the community (business and jobs) to improve. We need jobs. We depend on each other.
- It would be a shame if the quotas were taken any lower. Expertise will be lost. Hardwood logs are different to pine. We need to keep the skills—from cutting to sawing.
- We need to keep quotas and keep the town expanding. We need to process timber in town.
- Leave the timber industry alone. We should encourage small business. I'd like to see the youth develop their own activities and employment and bring kids here. Maybe do a Mogo town (curiosity shops etc).
- We should leave the timber industry alone. Families have had to move. We lost two adults and three children in one family. We need to generate more business around here. We depend on each other.

1.4.14 Reaction to forest use options

Workshop participants were asked to look at three broad scenarios for forest management. The tables below have been structured to reflect the priority each point was assigned by the group.

Scenario A—What would be the social impacts in Wandandian if areas currently deferred (set aside) are reserved for conservation and other uses?

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National parks will end up with the best bushes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There will be no timber industry. People working in the timber industry will lose their jobs ■ Closure of sawmill. We will have to import timber and this will affect balance of trade and foreign debt ■ Will kill off sawmills in areas other than Wandandian. Loss of other employment opportunities for workers ■ Loss of access to forest product. Will limit business and employment options ■ Danger to Wandandian community due to increased fire risk ■ Less agile people won't have access to more remote areas ■ Increased pressure on compartments left open. Poorer quality logs will lead to poorer quality product, and impact on sales and the ability to compete against pine ■ Increased fire risk will spread to other areas also ■ Fires management regime endangers flora and fauna because of the risk of wildfire. ■ Increased costs to use forests

Scenario B—What would be the social impacts in Wandandian if areas currently deferred (set aside) become available for the timber industry and other uses?

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ More jobs, more logging crews working (selective logging) ■ Still able to be used for recreation. Can get access by car for aged and disabled ■ Decreased pressure on forest resource because larger area available for harvesting ■ Workers in bush maintain bridges and roads for access. Good for emergency access ■ There will be timber extraction and will pay royalties for timber. Funds go to State and people will be paid and spend their money in Wandandian ■ Can still ride horses and take dogs in forest ■ Workers in bush can monitor state of bush for fire etc (early warning) 	

Scenario C—What would be the social impacts on Wandandian if, 50% of the forest areas currently deferred become available for timber and other uses and 50% of the forest areas currently deferred become available for conservation and recreation?

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Achieve a balance between the need to look after native species and look after jobs ■ Increased protection of native flora and fauna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Loss of opportunities for healthy activities for youth ■ Increased pressure on compartments left open leading to poorer quality logs. Won't be able to put out quality products and this will impact on sales and ability to compete against pine ■ Limited area means radical people from outside the area will want the area that's left for timber. They will demonstrate against workers and stop them working. This will lead to job loss and have a dramatic affect on community

1.5 CASE STUDY TOWN—TUMUT

1.5.1 History of settlement

Tumut, 434km southwest of Sydney and 120km west of Canberra, is located at the northern gateway to the Australian Alps. Sited on the Tumut River, Tumut is in the hub of a valley. In 1996 the population was 5915, over half the population of the Tumut Shire. The town is 275 metres above sea level and enjoys a temperate climate.

The name Tumut was derived from the Aboriginal word meaning ‘a quiet resting place by the river’.

The first white settler to the area was Thomas McAlister who founded Darbralara Station in the early 1830s. This station subsequently produced the Darbralara Shorthorn breed of cattle. The discovery of gold at Kiandra in 1859 provided a market for Tumut’s primary products and established the town as a service centre for the rural surrounds. Some miners settled in Tumut after the gold rush and later gold mining at Adelong kept the population in the district fairly stable for some time. By 1887, Tumut was a municipality and by 1928 it had become the focal point for the Tumut Shire, which incorporated the towns of Adelong, Batlow and Talbingo.

The tourism potential of nearby features, such as the Buddong Falls and the Yarrangobilly Caves was recognised in the early 1900s, and a small tourist industry, based largely on the natural beauty of the area and outdoor pursuits such as canoeing, fishing and skiing, began.

The softwood industry, trialed in 1921, overtook dairying as the primary industry in the area and a large proportion of Tumut workers moved into this industry. Three large softwood processing plants and several hardwood mills developed in and around Tumut. A trout hatchery was constructed in 1928.

The postwar period saw an injection of people and development into Tumut with the development of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme and the construction of the Blowering Dam, Talbingo Dam, and Tumut Ponds Dam upstream the Tumut River. Access to Tumut’s scenic attractions was improved through the development of roads associated with the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

1.5.2 Major events

Annual events in Tumut include the Tumut Show, the Easter Art Exhibition and the ten-day ‘Festival of the Falling Leaf’.

1.5.3 Population

In 1996, Tumut’s population was 5 915, a slight decrease (–0.67%) from 1991 (5 955 persons). Twenty four per cent of the population were 15 years and under and 15% were over 65 years or more. This equates to a dependency ratio of 38%. The median age was 34 years which equals that of NSW.

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS: PERSONS IN URBAN CENTRE TUMUT

	Persons
Total persons	5915
Aged 15 years and over	4520
Aboriginal	193
Torres Strait Islander	10
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander	6
Australian born	5339
Born overseas: Canada, Ireland, NZ, South Africa, and USA	227
Born overseas: Other country	151
Born overseas: Total	378
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	5156
Speaks language other than English and aged 5 years and over	128
Australian citizen	5609
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	4040
Unemployed	216
Employed	2332
In the labour force	2548
Not in the labour force	1868
Unemployment rate	8.5
Enumerated in private dwelling	5738
Enumerated in non-private dwelling	177
Persons enumerated same address 5 years ago	3101
Persons enumerated different address 5 years ago	2158
Overseas visitor	6

Source: ABS 1996 census CDATA table

1.5.4 Employment and Industry

The 1996 Census showed that 2 548 people (43% of the total population) were in the labour force.

The unemployment rate was 8.5% with 216 people looking for work.

Major industries were manufacturing (21%), retail trade (15%), agriculture, forestry and fishing (11%), health and community services (7%), and education (6%).

Tumut is at the centre of one of the fastest growing softwood areas in Australia. Almost 30% of the district's workforce are employed in the establishment, harvesting, haulage or processing operations of the timber industry. A paper pulp mill is to be established in the area in the near future.

Tourism is another industry that is becoming increasingly important to the town.

1.5.5 Income

The median household income was \$527 per week, almost \$50 less per week than the \$573 for rural NSW, and less than NSW median of \$655. The median individual weekly income in Tumut was \$346 per week approximately \$50 per week less than the \$408 for New South Wales.

1.5.6 Health

Tumut has a 26 bed, level 2 multi-purpose hospital with a 24-hour emergency service. Services provided by the hospital include acute care, maternity, medical, surgical, operating theatre and limited paediatric services.

There are 17 doctors using Tumut Hospital including six general practitioners and one surgeon. There is also a visiting surgeon and a visiting obstetrics/gynaecology specialist who visits from Wagga Wagga. The Wagga Wagga hospital is the referring hospital. Dental and chiropractic services are well covered with 3 dental surgeries and 2 chiropractic surgeries.

Tumut also has a community health centre and an early childhood centre. Aged care services incorporate a nursing home, an aged persons facility, 2 aged home care services, an aged minding service, meals on wheels, and a community transport service.

1.5.7 Education

A range of educational facilities is located in Tumut. These include a community based pre-school, day nursery and a kindergarten. There are two government and one non government primary school, one government and one non-government secondary schools, and a special school that incorporates primary and secondary students. Post School Options supports people with disabilities who have recently left school. There is also a campus of the Riverina Community College that offers certificate studies including computing, business services, automotive, and course designed for the Snowy Mountain Scheme.

The majority of people in Tumut (72%) were not attending educational institutions. Of those who were, 46% attended infants and primary schools and 28% attended secondary schools. Attendance at government schools was more than four times that of persons attending non-government primary and secondary schools. In 1996, 40% of Tumut residents had left school aged 15 years or less.

The following table identifies the number of people attending each educational sector during 1996.

EDUCATION

Educational sectors	Persons
Pre-school	92
Infants/Primary School	639
Secondary School	385
Technical/Further Education	189
University or other Tertiary Institutions	53
Other	15
Not attending	4257
Not stated	281
Overseas visitor	6
Total	5917

Source: ABS CDATA tables

1.5.8 Housing

In 1996, 42% of houses in Tumut were fully owned, 22% being purchased, and 33% were being rented or occupied rent free or under a life tenure system. Approximately 10% of all houses were unoccupied.

HOUSING

	Total
Total occupied private dwellings	2274
Fully owned	951
Being purchased	493
Being rented or occupied rent free or occupied under a life tenure system	747
Other/not stated	83
Unoccupied	222

Source: ABS 1996 Census of Population and Housing: Selected Characteristics for Urban Centres and Localities: NSW and ACT and ABS CDATA tables.

The median loan repayment was \$650 per month. The median payment for rent was \$100 per week.

1.5.9 Communications

The *Tumut and Adelong Times* is the local newspaper in Tumut. The development of a community radio station is currently under discussion. There are two main Internet providers in Tumut and there is an information technology centre for small businesses managed by the Tumut Shire Library.

1.5.10 Community services

Tumut has a wide range of community services. There are 5 counselling and support services, an employment service, and 5 services to assist people with a disability including 'Riding for the Disabled'.

The town has several emergency services. Community organisations include Apex, Lions, Rotary, Men's and Ladies' Probus, Country Women's Association, Red Cross, Tumut Arts Society and Camera Club, Community Theatre group, Bridge Club, Gardening Club, and two ecology groups. There are also 19 non-religious community groups including the Rivercrest Christian Education and Camp Centre, and 20 sporting and recreational groups.

Tumut also supports a swimming pool, library, museum, courthouse, and a meeting hall (Tumut Shire Community Directory 1998).

1.5.11 Outcomes of Tumut community workshop

Held: Tuesday 29 June 1999

Groups represented: education, Southern Highland Legacy, environmental groups, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Forest Industry Council, landcare, local government, health services, Forest Protection Society, timber industry, logging contractors, communications, Country Women's Association.

Significant events

What have been the significant events in your community since 1980?

Date	Event
1975	Water speed record was set at Blowering Dam
Early 80s	Tumut Electricity building opened (TRCC)
1981–82	A&N and Laminex took pulp
1982	CSR Softwood bought APM
1984	Closure of the Montreal theatre
1985	Big flood on Gilmore Creek
1985	Hardwood production from State Forests trebled
1986	Red Hill station bought for softwood plantations
1988	First export of roundwood out of the region
1990	Riverside orchards established
1990	Doubling of production at CSR
1990	ACI bought by CSR
1992–93	Talbingo bus crash
1994	Forestry faculty at TAFE opened
1995	Declaration of Wilderness areas
1995	'Naningroe' property purchased by State Forests
1995	Community raised money and reopened the Montreal theatre with a grant from NSW Government
1996	Butter Factory closed
1996	Proposed closure of the old bridge was opposed by community
1996	New Library and Shire complex opened
1996	Kentucky Fried Chicken opened on former Masonic Hall site
1997	Talbingo Shire taken over by Tumut Shire
1997	Community saved the Talbingo petrol station so it could be sold as a going concern
1997	Mine reopened at Adelong
1998	Visy Paper Mill proposal
April 1999	Community meeting to lobby for new hospital
Jan 1999	Plans to relocate maternity ward within the hospital
1999	Council moved to TRCC building
1999	Vision 2020 Plan released. First year the Shire had a development plan for the area

How did the community manage these events?

Positive event—Visy Mill

The foundation for this change was set 40 years ago when State Forests planted pine. It led to the current oversupply of pulpwood. Generally the community supports the development of the Mill. However neighbours from near the site formed a committee to monitor environmental concerns about water quality and air pollution. Another committee, the Community Consultative Committee, is broader based. The mill is seen as a major employment opportunity. An EIS and social assessment was undertaken. Some stakeholders are concerned about the rural landscape. Lobbying for the new hospital is part of trying to make sure that health infrastructure will be able to cope with the expected increase in population and demand for services.

Negative event—purchase of private property, 'Red Hill' (10 000 hectares) and 'Naningroe' stations by NSW State Forests for pine plantations

Previously Red Hill employed 10–12 men plus seasonal labour, but they lost their jobs when the land was bought. Some redundant workers were offered jobs with forestry. The local community got involved and committees were formed, however this effort was not sustained.

Naningroe had three families. The previous owners will move soon, and we will lose more families from the area. The flow-on effect will primarily have an impact on the local school. Under the Visy proposal, State Forests is committed to plant a further 20 000 hectares.

1.5.12 Community feelings about Tumut

How do you feel about your community?

- I came here three years ago for the lifestyle. The natural assets that are worth preserving. There's also a good economic base with employment opportunities.
- I've only been here a month.
- I was born here and I've seen two sides of Tumut. My husband is a faller, and I work in the hospital. I love spring, summer and autumn. It's close to a city and a safe place.
- I came here in '52 and I'll never leave.
- It's beautiful in spring and autumn. Catering for all sports, great health care. The people have heart.
- I came in 1952 to be a football coach when it was a one horse town. It's now a three horse town and we have prospered here.
- I came in 1975 and people are kind and friendly. It's a bit cold.
- I've been here 4 months, I chose the job here, and I enjoy it.
- I like the people, spirit of community, and being near to Kosciusko.
- My wife and I came down for a spell. It's unreal. We won't move for quite a while.
- We chose to bring up the family in a rural community. Tumut has a five star rating.
- Came here two and a half years ago for work, and the pine resource base. There's 6 banks operating in town. The sponge city effect may have an impact in the future and decrease opportunities for those who become unemployed.
- It's a thriving self-sustaining town. We have a resource base.
- It's close to Wagga and Canberra while still being rural. The best of both worlds.
- I came here for employment. It still has a lovely country feeling. It has beautiful dams and mountains.

1.5.13 Visions for Tumut

What are your visions for the community?

- In ten years it will be the size of Bathurst. I'd like it to be the same size it is now but keep the kids in town.
- An increase in population without losing its sense of community and involvement.
- The Visy mill will be a big plus. There should be no major Canberra access, and no 'overwilderness-ising' of the surrounds.
- All the benefits of rural Australia, and the same educational benefits for my children as for metropolitan people.
- Better access to education and an increase in employment growth and economic stability for the town.
- People stay together and stay close knit. Economic growth as long as it doesn't affect community spirit.
- Education facilities rank highly.
- Keep infrastructure, banks, post office and hospitals. So we will need Visy
- A new hospital, better education and employment opportunities, and keep the rural atmosphere.

- Don't worry about the Tumut to Canberra road. We were talking about it in 1950.
- Visy plus infrastructure.
- Good health care including aged care. A low crime rate and reduced drug abuse. More childcare facilities. We need a men's halfway house.
- More facilities to keep the 15–20 year olds in town.
- Moderate but steady economic growth. Rural community and service provision equal to metropolitan areas.

1.5.14 Reaction to forest use options

Workshop participants were asked to look at three broad scenarios for forest management. The tables below have been structured to reflect the priority each point was assigned by the group.

Scenario A—What would be the social impacts in Tumut if the areas currently deferred become available for conservation and recreation?

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Will reserve yellow box forests previously depleted by agricultural use ■ Increased community self-esteem because the forests are highly valued and meet world class criteria ■ People like the natural beauty. Conservation will enhance our natural lifestyle ■ Possible increase in ecotourism jobs ■ People like wilderness areas around Tumut ■ No negative social impacts in Tumut if all the IAP areas are set aside for conservation ■ No increased risk from feral animals, fire etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wilderness limits people's use of an area because people have to walk in ■ Possible increased risk from fire, noxious weeds, feral animals

Scenario B—What would be the social impacts in Tumut if the areas that are currently set aside become available for the timber industry and other uses?

Positive impact	Negative impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Will maintain access for apiarists (beekeepers) ■ Increased employment in the timber industry and ecotourism and maintenance/increase of services in the town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ RFA process only targeting forests. Won't include impact on farming ■ People around Holbrook will be more concerned about fire control etc

Scenario C—What would be the social impact on Tumut if 50% of areas are reserved for conservation and recreation and 50% become available to the timber industry and other uses?

There was no community response to this scenario.

1.6 CASE STUDY TOWN—TUMBARUMBA

1.6.1 History of settlement

Tumbarumba is a rural town situated on the western slopes of the Snowy Mountains. The name Tumbarumba is Aboriginal for 'sounding ground', and was used to describe the booming sound that the kangaroos made bounding over certain areas of the hills.

Settlement commenced in 1836 by pastoralists who were attracted to the area for its fertile pastures and abundance of water. Gold was discovered in the 1860s and provided a steady yield for settlers, however by the 1870s most of the gold resource was exhausted.

Local attractions in and around Tumbarumba include skiing, camping, bushwalking, fossicking, fishing, boating and nearby Kosciusko National Park.

The eastern part of the Tumbarumba Shire is covered by 45 000 hectares of State eucalypt forests. There are also 20 000 hectares of pine plantations, 80% of which are owned by NSW State Forests and 20% by private forestry companies.

1.6.2 Major events

The Tumbarumba Rodeo is held on New Years Day every year. The Tumbarumba Show is held a fortnight before Easter. Tumbafest is held in late February, a Mountain Bike Festival in March and a Polocrosse Carnival in April/May. In late April they host Autumn Glory and finish the year off with Heritage Week in November.

1.6.3 Population

The 1996 Census showed a population of 1 502 persons in the Tumbarumba township, almost 3% fewer than recorded in 1991 (1 548 persons). Twenty three per cent of the population were aged 15 years or under and 16% were aged 65 years or more. This equates to a dependency ratio of around 24%. The median age was 37. This was higher than that of NSW (34 years).

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS: PERSONS IN URBAN CENTRE TUMBARUMBA

	Persons
Total persons	1502
Aged 15 years and over	1168
Aboriginal	7
Torres Strait Islander	0
Both Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander	0
Australian born	1341
Born overseas: Canada, Ireland, NZ, South Africa, and USA	69
Born overseas: Other country	48
Born overseas: Total	117
Speaks English only and aged 5 years and over	1301
Speaks language other than English and aged 5 years and over	40
Australian citizen	1405
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	1034
Unemployed	51
Employed	593
In the labour force	644
Not in the labour force	499
Unemployment rate	7.9
Enumerated in private dwelling	1444
Enumerated in non-private dwelling	58
Persons enumerated same address 5 years ago	837
Persons enumerated different address 5 years ago	492
Overseas visitor	3

Source: ABS 1996 Census CDATA

1.6.4 Employment and Industry

The 1996 census showed that 644 people (almost 43% of the total population) were in the labour force. Of these 590 people (approximately 92%) were employed. The unemployment rate was almost 8% with 51 people looking for work. This was 1% lower than that of NSW, and the lowest unemployment rate for all case study communities.

Major industries were manufacturing (19%), agriculture, forestry and fishing (14%), retail trade (13%), government administration and defence (7%), transport and storage (6%), and health and community services (6%).

Forestry, sawmilling and related services are major employers in Tumbarumba. There is a large softwood mill located in Tumbarumba and a hardwood mill located in Laurel Hill a few kilometres to the north.

1.6.5 Income

The median weekly household income was \$484 per week. This was below the median weekly household income for NSW (\$655 per week), and of the NSW rural median household income (\$573). The median individual weekly income was \$245.

1.6.6 Health

There is one multi-purpose hospital that has 36 beds. Of these 16 beds are in the aged care hostel, 10 are nursing home beds, and 10 beds are designated for acute care. There is no provision for theatre or obstetrics. Other services supported by the hospital include Meals-on-Wheels, radiology, a school dental clinic, and a day care centre that provides day activities for the elderly.

There are two ambulance officers based at the hospital. A dietician and an occupational therapist visit on a fortnightly basis, and a physiotherapist visits 2 days per week. A women's health nurse visits monthly and an optometrist comes in from Tumut once a week. A private paediatrician visits every second month. Parenting classes are held during the evenings with 3 sessions throughout the year. A Diabetics Association office and a Cancer Research office are also located in Tumbarumba.

1.6.7 Education

A range of educational facilities is located in Tumbarumba. These include one government and one non-government primary school and one government secondary school.

Tumut TAFE (located 70km away) provides vocational courses. An alternate learning centre has been set up as a joint school program between the Tumut TAFE and the Tumbarumba High School. This program is designed for adults who have learning needs and for children with learning difficulties.

The majority of persons in Tumbarumba (65%) were not attending educational institutions. Of those who were, 47% were attending infants and primary school, and 33% were attending secondary school. More than 42% of residents left school at aged 15 years or less.

The following table identifies the number of people attending each educational sector during 1996.

EDUCATION

Educational sector	Persons
Pre-school	23
Infants/Primary School	136
Secondary School	94
Technical/Further Education	18
University or other Tertiary Institutions	13
Other	3
Not attending	1140
Not stated	71
Overseas visitor	3
Total	1501

Source: ABS CDATA tables

1.6.8 Housing

In 1996, 48% of houses in Tumbarumba were fully owned, 20% were being purchased, and 28% were being rented or occupied rent free or under a life tenure system. Approximately 15% of all houses were unoccupied.

	Total
Total occupied private dwellings	593
Fully owned	287
Being purchased	118
Being rented or occupied rent free or occupied under a life tenure system	164
Other/not stated	24
Unoccupied	86

Source: ABS 1996 Census of Population and Housing: Selected Characteristics for Urban Centres and Localities: NSW and ACT and ABS CDATA tables.

1.6.9 Communications

There are a number of radio stations serving Tumbarumba and the Riverina Region—ABC Radio Riverina 92.5FM, Radio 2RG, DMG Regional Radio 2WG, Rich Rivers Radio 102.5FM, Riverina Broadcasters 93.1FM and 2AAA FM107. The local newspaper is the *Tumbarumba Times*.

1.6.10 Community services

Tumbarumba offers a range of services to the community including community transport, an aged care day care centre, meals-on-wheels and a Nursing Mothers Association. A library, a number of churches, a Rotary and Lions Club, a Masonic Lodge, a Neighbourhood Centre, a fire station, ambulance station, and police station are also located within the town.

1.6.11 Outcomes of Tumbarumba community workshop

Held: Wednesday 1 July 1998

Groups represented: State Forests NSW, local government, timber industry, CFMEU, tourism, housing, education, transport, Forest Protection Society, NSW Farmers, apiarists, emergency services, elected representative, health.

Significant events

What have been the significant events in your community since 1980?

Date	Event
1979	Private and State pine aforesation intensified.
1981	Australian Newsprint Mills opened.
1984	Enlargement of softwood mill—Boral employment trebled from 76 to 180 people.
1988	Grape industry was established.
1980s	Increase in employment.
1980s on	Roads infrastructure study done for the timber industry. Better roads since 1980s.
1980s on	Local shops expanded.
1984	Laurel Hill Mill expanded.
1988	Enlargement of corrective services unit.
1990s	Expansion of tourism
1995	Local control of electricity (employed 8 people) went to Great Southern Energy. Telstra downsized and 8 people lost their jobs. The Snowy Mountain Authority downsized. State Forest relocated from Batlow to Tumbarumba.
1996	Bank Closed.
1996	The Tumbarumba Motel was built.
1996 on	Sydney Olympics has run rural towns dry.
1997–98	Hospital lost maternity facility. Now has 24 aged care units with an emphasis on Multi Purpose Services encompassing acute, nursing and hostel care.
1998	Changes at Laurel Hill Mill.
1999	Rural Fire Service obtained more funding for plant equipment and management.
1990s	Decline in livestock industries. Decreased wool prices. Decline in commodity prices.
1990s	Decline in both primary and secondary school population.
1990s	Competition Policy put pressure on provision of services.
1990s	Racecourse moved to bottom end of town.

How did the community manage these events

Positive event—timber industry growth

In 1954 the Commonwealth and NSW State governments developed a Softwood Agreement. Forestry planted trees, which led to more jobs. In 1974, 300 people were employed in harvesting. Better technology led to increased volume of output.

In 1985 private plots were encouraged. This led to Boral expanding. They employed 60 extra people. The Australian Newsprint Mills started taking thinnings. Tumbarumba was well positioned, close to Albury so plantations could be thinned on time. New houses were built, and there was great community optimism. In the 1990s the Australian Newsprint Mills started selling joint ventures. Thirty-nine jobs for trained people resulted, and these were well paid jobs. The feelings about this in the community were mixed.

Improved roads also took money to Wagga Wagga as people went there for the variety shopping and services.

Laurel Hill mill was bought by a community collective. Now it employs between 7 and 10 people.

More women are employed since technology changed. Nearly all the married women in town are working. There is currently almost a 50:50 women/men ratio employed at the mill.

The Australian Newspaper Mill is not able to take thinnings now.

Negative event—decline in commodity prices

The kids have left town and the population is aging. Farmers and their wives are looking for off-farm earnings; the women have all gone out to work. There is less expenditure in town, and a decline in asset development.

There are also fewer people in town to use infrastructure but it is still necessary so it costs government more to provide services. Mobile phone access has only been possibly recently and there are lots of dead spots in town. Banks and businesses are closing and this has an effect on the main street. Also there is not sufficient access to Internet to take advantage of the changes. People have to go to Wagga Wagga for services such as dentistry, so they do their shopping while they're there. This means a further drain on the town's business earnings.

The ANZ Bank closed so the community moved accounts to NAB to support the local bank, but NAB is now closing. The community feels disempowered by these changes. They feel that the Government is encouraging 'regional' services at expense of 'small rural' communities.

Despite the setbacks, the community organised and succeeded in saving the racecourse, the timber mill, and the golf club

1.6.12 Community feelings about Tumbarumba

How do you feel about your community?

- I've been here 8 months and haven't formed an opinion yet. I came from a country town and this is big for me.
- I love living here. There's room for value-adding. Then young people may stay and it might bring tourism and visitors.
- I've got four children, and I'm optimistic. We need to attract industry and value adding.
- I don't feel optimistic about the job situation at all. I've got four kids and three are out of work and it's disheartening. They can't get the dole and I'm supporting them. Apparently I've got too many assets. The kids can't afford to leave.
- It's a magic spot. We need to take control of our destiny, be more vocal, earlier and develop timber, grapes etc.
- I've been away twenty years and returned five years ago. I love it. I just wish the community would start fighting before we start losing things.
- Transport to jobs is a real issue for unemployed people looking for jobs. I sympathise with anyone young and unemployed. There's no understanding of transport problems. It's a form of discrimination. Their only transport options are a train or bus to Cootamundra.
- I'm proud of Tumbarumba. It's a lovely place to live. But I'm pessimistic about continuing loss of services and population and scared the bureaucrats and politicians will rationalise more and decrease the viability of the community.
- I'm quite optimistic. We've got a low unemployment rate. The timber industry is a great employer and we need to work with them. Also we need more value adding. We need to build local industries. The town seems to be attracting a few from the city who are coming here to retire.
- I'm optimistic. You couldn't get more local than me. My business would fail without the timber industry.
- I love living here. I rely on the timber industry. Without it we'd be in trouble.
- I love living here. The town's always had a great future. But they're starting to rethink the idea of government rationalisation and the lack of encouragement by governments for small communities. It's sapping the life out of the community. People have reservations about coming here. It seems 'big is good' and the small communities are losing out.

- It's the only place to live. I've seen a lot of Australia and this is the prime spot. I took a redundancy from the Snowy Scheme. I started my own business doing carpentry and there's more than enough work. I often can't find employees though. As a beekeeper I've noticed a huge amount of stuff left in the bush.
- Aesthetically it's one of the best places in Australia. Socially it's one of the best. The community has many generations and it's very cohesive. I love living here but I'm faced every day with the realisation that access to services such as education, health, jobs has become harder. It sometimes seems it was a mistake leaving the public service in the 1970s. It's a self reliant and cohesive community. I'm worried about the way rural communities are being treated by the government. There's less time now for voluntary work and a decrease in community services and cohesion.
- I haven't been unemployed. There's work there if you want it. I hope our hardwoods don't go to closed access for our bee keeping business.
- I'm optimistic about the future. Lots of things are changing but it's no different in other communities. It's much better than other country towns—we've got low unemployment. We've lost some services but gained others. It's all part of change. We lost the maternity unit but got the community transport. The development of aged units was a big plus. It reflects our aging population. I think it's just part of the process of change.
- We need to work on getting more people into the area.
- I love Tumbarumba. I've been here 15 years and probably won't get out. There's room for improvement for value-adding. That might encourage the young people to stay. If others come it might increase the tourism.
- It's a magic spot. I firmly believe we need to take control of our community. The do nothing approach is leading to the destruction of our community. We need to be more vocal and determine our own future, our own industries, bring in expertise and make it happen.

1.6.13 Visions for Tumbarumba

What are your visions for the community?

- The town becomes more proactive, determines its future and the community has more drivers.
- Timber and grape value-adding and making better use of the visitors who come to town as tourists.
- Educating farmers about better ways of doing things to make a profit.
- That we stick together as a community. If the government wants to take something away, say either yes or no.
- Value-adding is important. I'd like to see the area not decline further in terms of shops and services.
- We've got prospects for tourism and value-adding but we need some sort of subsidy to encourage industry in town and investment in population. I dream of it every night.
- I'd like to 'chase' tourism and see the heritage buildings valued. We need to repair them rather than knock them down.
- We need a subsidy to value-add. Small players don't get enough encouragement. We need to look at penalty rates and tourism. It's a disincentive for tourism.
- Attract other industries to town and provide more in town for everyday needs so people don't have to go to Wagga Wagga and Tumut.

- It's a pretty active community but we could probably consult more.
- I'd like a local bank, like Bendigo Bank. The writing's on the wall for National and Westpac Bank. I'd like to see the money stay in town. No amalgamation into other Shires either Wagga or Albury. We can say good-bye to our community if that happens.
- It's one of the most beautiful parts of the country with great potential for tourism. We could equal places like Kangaroo Valley. We need to develop a road to Canberra.
- The banks need to have different lending policies for towns with less than 2 000 people.
- Direct public transport to Wagga and Albury.

1.6.14 Reaction to forest use options.

Workshop participants were asked to look at three broad scenarios for forest management. The tables below have been structured to reflect the priority each point was assigned by the group.

Scenario A—What would be the social impacts in Tumbarumba if areas currently deferred are reserved for conservation and recreation

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Less capacity for fire management. It's now a State Forest and we need to protect both pine and private property ■ Access to National Park is part of heritage so it will mean a loss of heritage. State Forest is part of us. Kosciusko National Park is 60% of the Shire ■ Apiarists-will lose access. Tumbarumba will lose their economic contribution ■ National Park needs to control feral animals and noxious weeds ■ Access denied to those who aren't able to walk in ■ Costs to access forest ■ May impact on firewood

Scenario B—What would be the social impacts in Tumbarumba if areas currently deferred become available for the timber industry and other uses?

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enable stabilisation and maintenance, maybe ■ Second shift at the mill and jobs for 5–7 more people. Community can then plan and can look at value-adding—May lead to the employment of up to 30 people ■ Maintain community access to public forests for tourism, horses, 4WD, walking, picnics, collecting firewood. Good for families, social heritage (old houses) ■ Access to wider species mix for timber (for value-adding) ■ Flowering necessary to maintain hives over seasons ■ Few social impacts from loss of deferred area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No unacceptable harvesting

Scenario C—What would be some of the social impacts in Tumbarumba if 50% of the forest areas currently deferred become available for the timber industry and other uses and 50% of the forest areas currently deferred become available for conservation and recreation?

There was no community response to this scenario.

1.6.15 Additional issues

Additional issues raised by the workshop were not directly related to forest scenarios were:

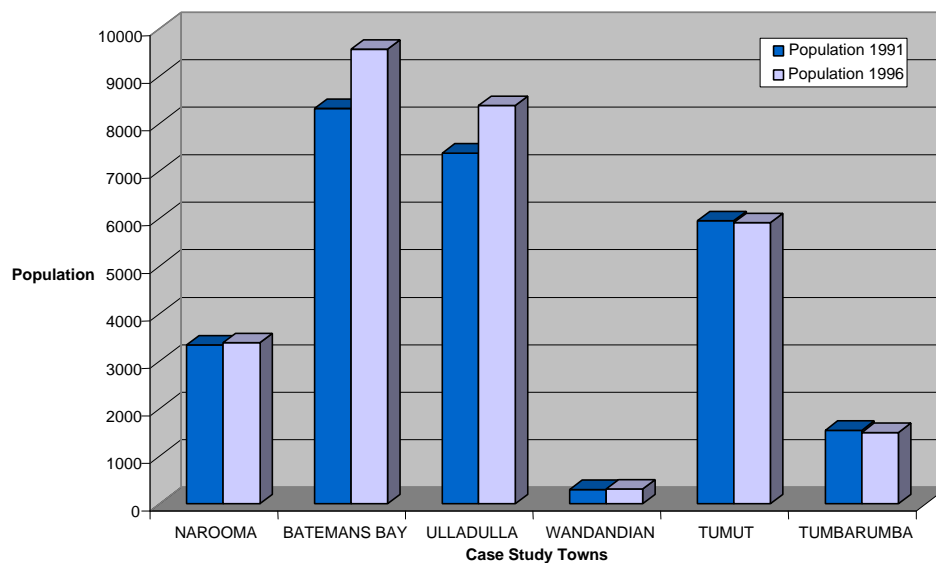
- Native Vegetation Overlay.
- Costs of access to National Park.
- Worry that increased resources may be exported out of Tumbarumba.

2 ANALYSIS OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

2.1 POPULATION

The 1996 Census populations of case study communities ranged greatly in size—the largest being Batemans Bay (9 568) and the smallest Wandandian (309).

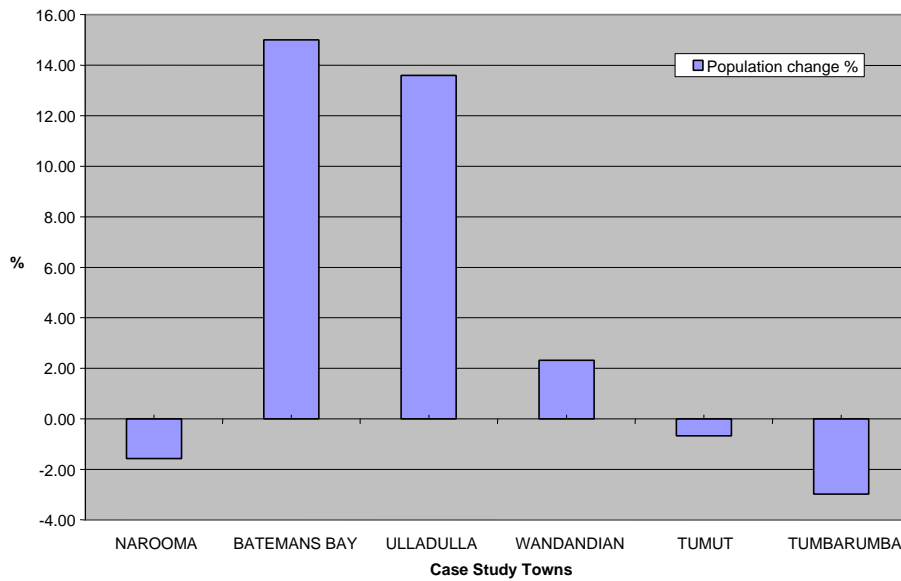
CENSUS POPULATION 1991 AND 1996



2.2 POPULATION CHANGE

The population change between 1991 and 1996 Census generally was greater in the coastal retirement centres than in inland centres. Batemans Bay had the largest population increase over this period (15%) and experienced above average growth rates when compared to the change in population in the Southern Region (7%) and NSW (5%) over the same period. Narooma, Tumbarumba and Tumut had a declining population over the 1991 to 1996 period, with the greatest decline occurring in Tumbarumba (-3%).

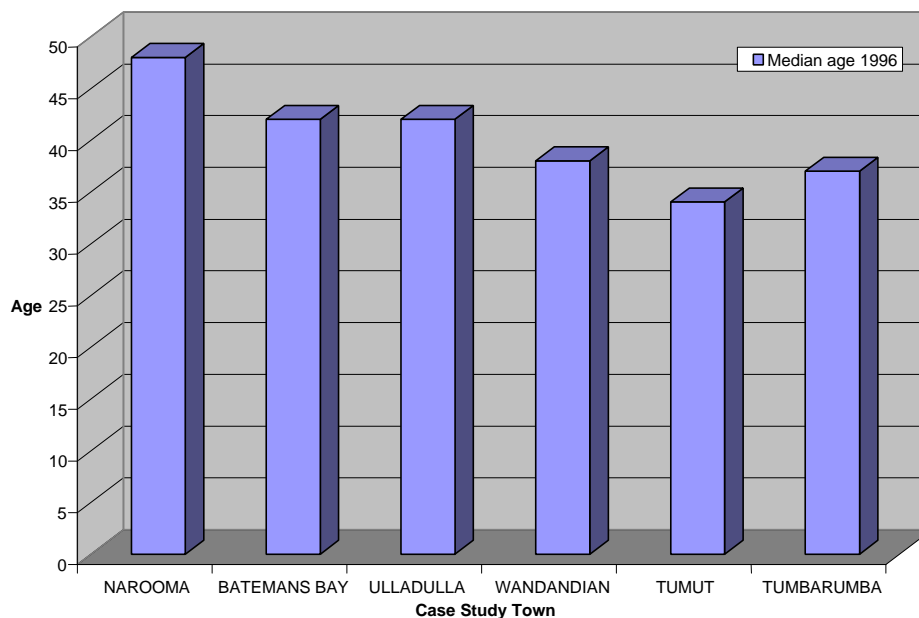
POPULATION CHANGE (%)



2.3 MEDIAN AGE

The median age in coastal communities is higher than for inland communities. In addition the median age in Narooma is disproportionately high compared with other coastal communities, and reflects Narooma's popularity as a retirement location. Overall Tumut community has the lowest median age of the case study communities.

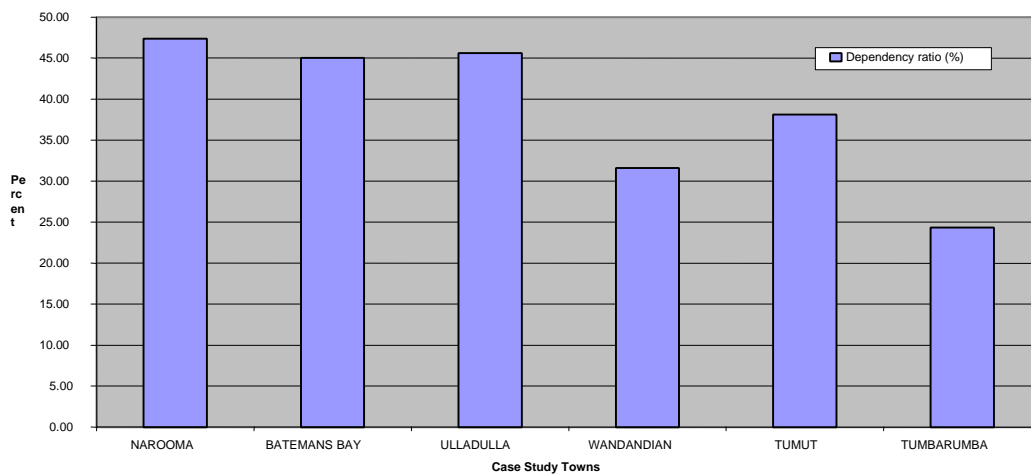
MEDIAN AGE, 1996



2.4 DEPENDENCY RATIO

There is a wide variation in dependency rates between the case study communities. Narooma has the highest rate (47%) and Tumbarumba the lowest (24%) dependency ratio. In 1996 Narooma, Ulladulla, Batemans Bay and Tumut all had a higher dependency ratio than that recorded for NSW in 1996 (33.92%) and the Southern Region (37.21%).

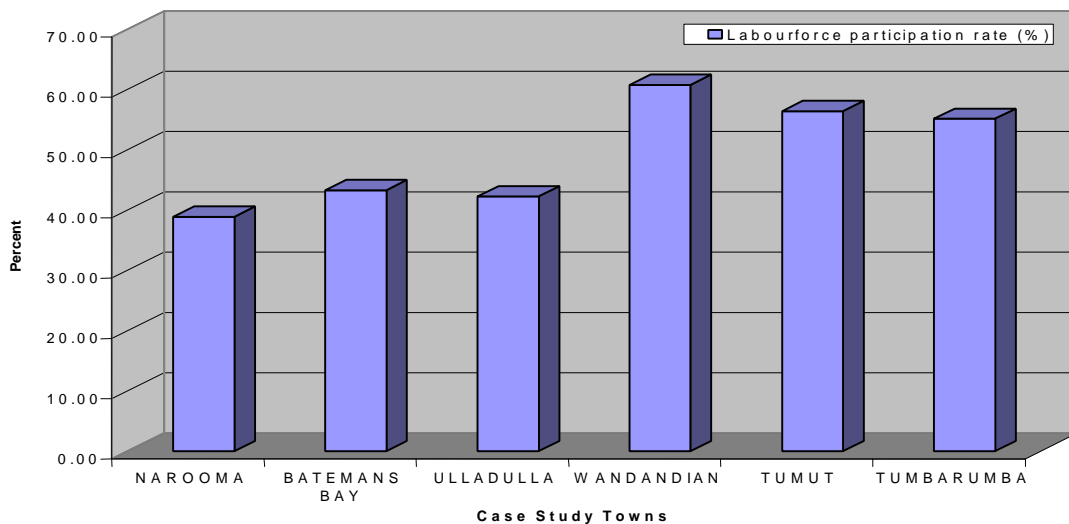
DEPENDENCY RATIO, 1996 (%)



2.5 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Labour force participation rates reflect the number of persons in the workforce compared to the population of persons aged 15 years or more in the community. The highest participation rate (61%) occurred in the smallest community—Wandandian. The lowest participation rate occurred in Narooma (39%).

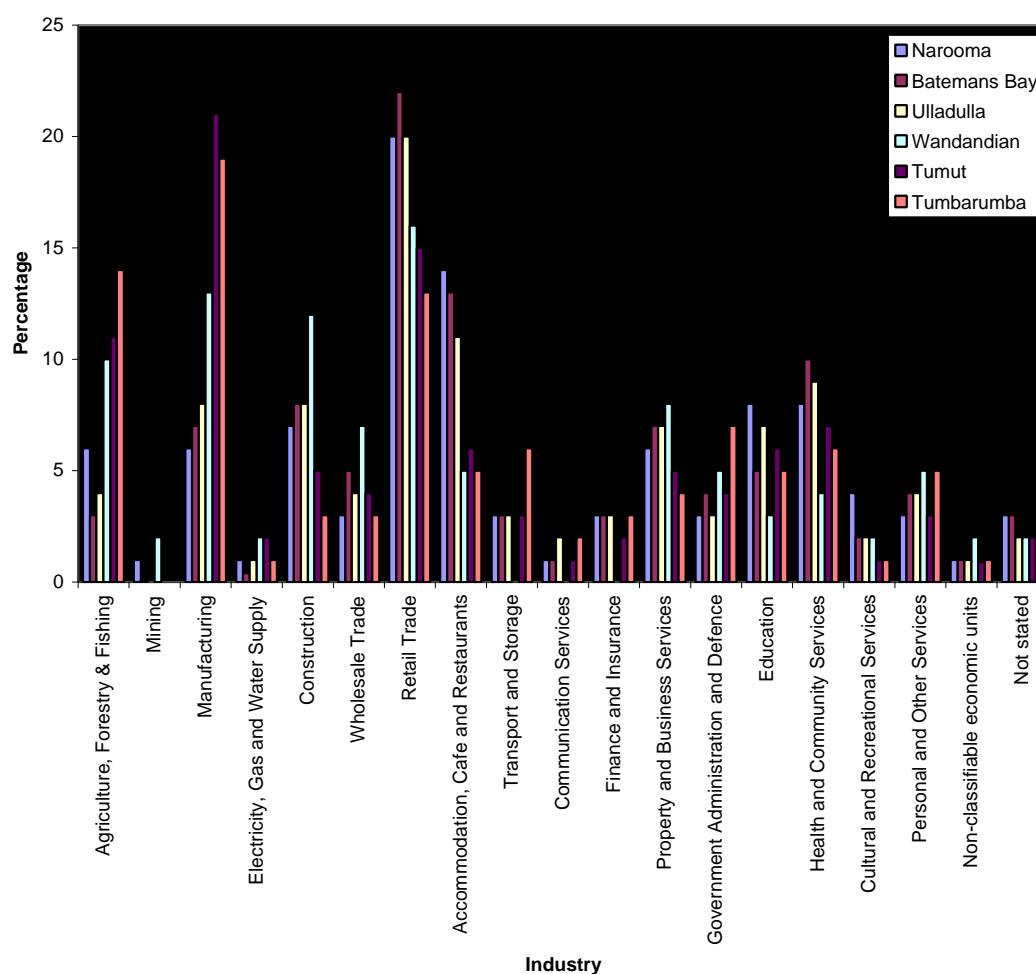
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE (%)



2.6 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

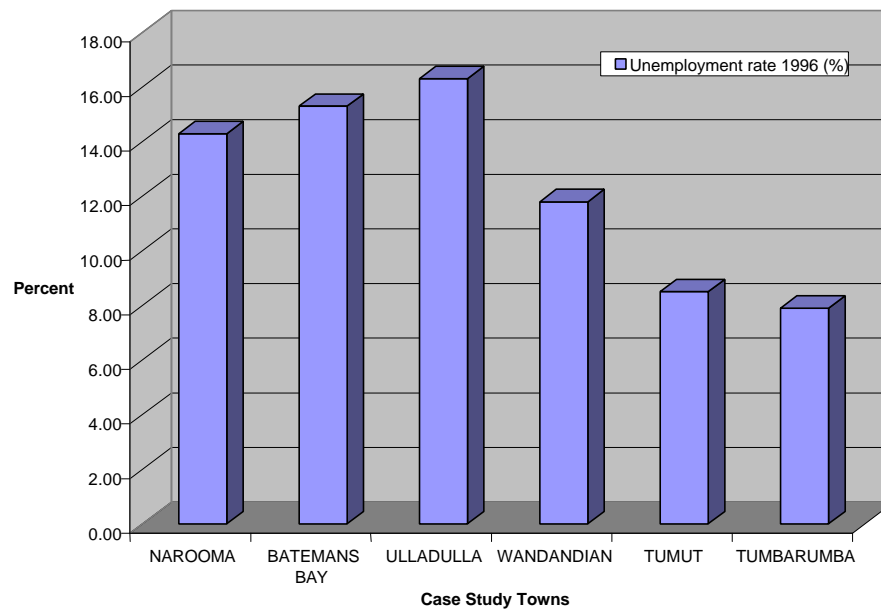
Retail trade was the major industry in Narooma (20%), Batemans Bay (22%), Ulladulla (20%), and Wandandian (16%). Manufacturing was the major industry in Tumut (21%) and Tumbarumba (19%). Agriculture, forestry and fishing were also major industries in Tumbarumba (14%) and Tumut (11%). All coastal area towns, except Wandandian, have a higher reliance on retail and accommodation industries, reflecting a focus on tourism.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, 1996



2.7 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

All case study communities on the coastal fringe had unemployment rates higher than the NSW rate for 1996 (9%). This would reflect the focus of these towns on tourism and its seasonal nature, the high level of retirees, and the lack of industry diversity in the coastal area. Ulladulla (16%), Batemans Bay (15%) and Narooma (14%) had the highest unemployment rates. Ulladulla's unemployment rate was almost double that of NSW. The relatively low unemployment rates in Tumut and Tumbarumba reflect the high reliance on the more stable (less seasonal) industries such as manufacturing and agriculture, forestry and fishing.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1996 (%)**2.8 MEDIAN WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

The median weekly household income in all case study communities is less than the NSW median (\$655). Medians range from \$620 in Wandandian to \$386 in Narooma. Low household incomes in the coastal areas are likely to reflect the popularity of these areas as retirement centres. The higher workforce participation rates in Tumut and Tumberumba possibly contribute to the higher household income rates in these centres. The relatively high weekly household incomes in Wandandian may reflect the recent development of subdivisions and the trend for Wandandian to become a commuter area for people who work in Nowra.