



Eberhard Consulting

Eberhard Consulting was established by Rachel Eberhard in 2005. As an independent consultant, Rachel works with clients to improve policy, planning and management processes in natural resource management. Rachel has a particular interest in the use of rigorous evidence for decision-making, and the social dimensions of negotiating outcomes to complex issues. She mostly works with water and landscape programs at large scales (from catchment landscapes to multi-regional).

Eberhard Consulting's clients include the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments, Regional Natural Resource Management bodies, industry groups and the private sector. Depending on the project, Rachel works within a client's team, in an advisory capacity, contracted for specific activities, or with other consultants for larger projects. She is based in Queensland and northern New South Wales, but works across Australia.

Rachel Eberhard

Rachel has over 20 years of experience in environmental and agricultural science, planning and policy. She has a degree in Agricultural Science, a Master of Natural Resources, and is currently completing a Master of Business. As a consultant, Rachel has

- had major roles establishing large cross-sectoral collaborations in the Great Barrier Reef and the Fitzroy Basin
- provided policy advice to the national natural resource management programs and draft Murray Darling Basin plan
- researched natural resource decision-making processes, and
- undertaken diverse project-based work for a wide-range of clients in Queensland and northern Australia.

Prior to establishing her consulting business, Rachel worked for the Queensland Government as an environmental scientist, where she coordinated the delivery of the state-wide water quality program under the Natural Heritage Trust. Rachel has also held agricultural research and extension roles in the public and private sectors.

While Rachel works with clients on policy, planning and implementation activities, she specializes in collaboration, evaluation and adaptation. More information is provided overleaf, or see www.eberhardconsulting.com.au.

Rachel Eberhard

0432 682 598

(07) 3844 9656

Rachel@eberhardconsulting.com.au

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Collaboration services

Collaboration offers a way of bringing greater resources, capacity, knowledge and perspectives together to address an issue. Collaboration is recommended when tackling 'wicked problems' that have multiple causes, complex and changing characteristics, and require negotiated solutions. Despite the hype, there are plenty of challenges in collaboration - attention to structures and processes can help the potential benefits of working together to be realised.

Eberhard Consulting offers stakeholder analysis, partnership or network design and brokerage, governance advice, partnership management, evaluation and troubleshooting.

Evaluation services

Evaluation is the systematic and objective determination of the merit or worth of something (a process, activity, plan or outcome). In natural resource management, evaluation can be used to improve a programs delivery, or determine its success at completion. Independent evaluation can provide a credible assessment of achievements, as well as working with proponents to constructively respond to findings.

Eberhard Consulting offers monitoring and evaluation design, project and program evaluation, partnership evaluation and report card development.

Adaptation services

Adaptive management is an approach that can accelerate learning by linking monitoring and evaluation systems to management decisions. It is recommended when dealing with complex issues. It can provide an explicit approach to managing uncertainty and negotiating stakeholder expectations. It is often cited, but rarely done well.

Eberhard Consulting offers information synthesis, design or review of adaptive management strategies, facilitation of review processes, and scoping of research needs.

Further information

See www.eberhardconsulting.com.au for examples of projects undertaken by Eberhard Consulting, or contact Rachel (details below) to discuss your needs.

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