

New South Wales

The University of New England

DP0985831 A/Prof NM Argent; Dr F Rolley; Prof J Walmsley; Dr R Dufty

Approved Project Title **Home and away?: Defining and conceptualising rural youth migration in Australia**

2009 : \$ 60,000

2010 : \$ 60,000

Primary RFCD 3705 DEMOGRAPHY

Administering Organisation The University of New England

Project Summary

The project addresses the Priority Goal of 'Strengthening Australia's social and economic health' in seeking a more precise understanding of the causes and actual migration pathways of Australian rural youth, and the extent to which these migrants return to their home regions. This understanding is critical for future key service delivery planning (e.g. health, including aged care), for labour force development planning (e.g. likely local demand for TAFE places). Relatedly, the project's findings should enable more reliable regional population projections and estimates and facilitate the development of locally-specific strategies to both retain rural youth and attract ex-migrants back.

DP0985638 Prof F Geiser

Approved Project Title **Cool mammals: responding to thermal and energetic challenges in the Australian tropics**

2009 : \$ 90,000

2010 : \$ 80,000

2011 : \$ 80,000

Primary RFCD 2705 ZOOLOGY

Administering Organisation The University of New England

Project Summary

A detailed understanding of thermal biology and energy use of mammals is essential for predicting how they will respond to climate change. As little is known about the functional and behavioural traits of Australian tropical mammals, the proposed work investigating the thermal energetics and foraging biology of eleven native species will result in a significant advancement in knowledge. This information will provide wildlife managers with an additional tool for making sound science-based decisions for the conservation of wildlife now and in the future. The project will train students, improve international collaboration, and substantially enhance the international scientific standing of Australia.

DP0986306 A/Prof M Siriwardana; Dr JM McNeill; Prof DJ Brunckhorst

Approved Project Title **Improving our understanding of the effects of low carbon policies on the Australian economy and regions**

2009 : \$ 40,000

2010 : \$ 40,000

2011 : \$ 35,000

Primary RFCD 3009 LAND, PARKS AND AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT

Administering Organisation The University of New England

Project Summary

Climate change mitigation policies at a national, and also at rural and regional level, is being demanded. Accurate, unbiased, and open debate with clear assumptions is critical. Greater student interest and expertise in the analytical skills is vital. More than one national model must be used and new models must incorporate more detailed data, especially on the interaction between the economy and the environment. Unfortunately, Australia has fallen behind other developed countries in building this capacity.