















**Project Title** **ARC Research Network in Spatially Integrated Social Science**

**Network Convenor** Stimson, R

**Admin Organisation** The University of Queensland

**Total Indicative Funding (for 5 years)** \$1,500,000

**Indicative Funding per Year (2004-05 to 2008-09)** \$300,000

**Project Abstract**

The ARC Research Network in Spatially Integrated Social Science (SISS) builds Australia's capacity and capability for innovative, collaborative, cross-disciplinary effort to investigate the impacts of change on the behaviour and well-being of people and the fortunes of places. SISS theories and research tools permit the integration of diverse and complex databases, the generation of new synthetic datasets, the incorporation of spatial concepts into statistical analysis and modelling, powerful visualisation of information, and the building spatial decision support systems, to provide an improved evidence base and better informed decision-making to address the significant challenges facing Australia's people and its places.

**Project Title** **The Cultural Research Network**

**Network Convenor** Turner, G

**Admin Organisation** The University of Queensland

**Total Indicative Funding (for 5 years)** \$1,750,000

**Indicative Funding per Year (2004-05 to 2008-09)** \$350,000

**Project Abstract**

The Cultural Research Network's initial disciplinary base will be in cultural, media, and communications studies. From this foundation it will build collaborative links with researchers from cultural history, cultural geography, cultural anthropology and creative industries to develop innovative research into media and cultural technologies, cultural literacies, cultural histories and identities. To facilitate interdisciplinary exchange the network will establish virtual connections, travelling master classes, seminars and symposia. The network will circulate people as well as ideas, bringing established Australian researchers into direct contact with postgraduates and young researchers, and pursuing international linkages.

**Project Title** **Australia-New Zealand Research Network for Vegetation Function**

**Network Convenor** Westoby, M

**Admin Organisation** Macquarie University

**Total Indicative Funding (for 5 years)** \$2,500,000

**Indicative Funding per Year (2004-05 to 2008-09)** \$500,000

**Project Abstract**

Plant species vary widely in quantitative functional traits, and in their relations to climate, soils and geography. Global generalizations are emerging. Vegetation Function network will reach from plant function into genomics and crop breeding, into palaeoecology and vegetation history, into landscape management for carbon, water and salinity outcomes, into forecasting future ecosystems under global change, and into phylogeny, ecoinformatics and evolutionary theory. Across this span, working groups will target nine identified opportunities for breakthrough research. Each research target needs input from two or more disciplines. Together, the nine targets link across disciplines, as a network that spans from genomic to planetary scales.

