

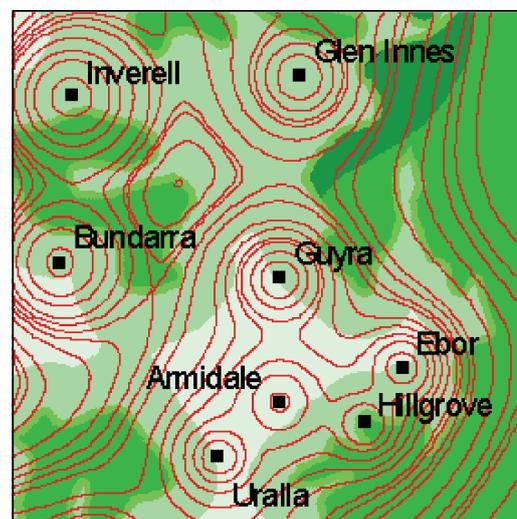
## Mapping Community Concern

The concept of integrated catchment management, introduced in the 1980s, has become the main method for regionalising resource management in Australia. However, the question has been raised as to whether there might be other ways which would take better account of the social aspects relevant to effective resource management. This question was at the centre of a three year research project undertaken at the Institute for Rural Futures.

### Communities of Common Concern

The imaginary surface shown by the contours on the map (right) represents the significance of different areas to the population living there. The “hills” on this surface represents areas that are of significance to more people than the “valleys”. Particular areas may be of significance because they define the community people feel they belong to, or the area where they believe they should have a say in resource management. They also reflect shared identity and how communities relate with one another. The green areas on the map are ecological surfaces reflecting similar landscapes. This information came from a survey of a sample of the population living in the map area, as well as from climate, vegetation, soils and geology data.

The deeper “valley” in the surface between Guyra and Glen Innes, compared to that between Guyra and Armidale, shows that Guyra people are more



likely to regard Armidale as part of their community than Glen Innes. The lack of deep “valleys” between the towns of Guyra, Armidale, Ebor, Hillgrove and Uralla, together with the ecological similarity of the landscape, suggests that the area around these towns would be an appropriate regional unit for resource management – that is, a community of common concern.

### Project Details

**Project Title:** Ecological and social functions affecting governance of natural resources

**Funding Organisation:** Land and Water Resources R & D Corporation

**Completion Date:** June 2002

### Contact

David Brunckhorst  
02 6773 3001

[dbrunckh@une.edu.au](mailto:dbrunckh@une.edu.au)

**Institute for Rural Futures**  
UNE, Armidale, NSW, 2351

