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Participative Approaches

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Participative Processes

- Context
 - Where/why are participative processes used
- Other than research
 - Programs/policies to induce change
- Research (and 'extension')
 - Experience in agriculture
 - LWA's preferences
 - Pros and Cons

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Context

- In agriculture there has been a long history of farmers working together and sharing experiences and innovations
- Many agriculture programs esp in Australia, focused on persuading or guiding changed practices rather than regulatory approaches
 - NRM programs can be seen as an extension or continuation although is a tendency now towards more regulatory approaches (eg native veg)

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Other Participatory Processes

- Some models of agricultural extension
 - Facilitation for empowerment
- Ag Programs
 - PMP
- NRM activities
 - landcare groups

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Participative Research (PR)

- Also known as Participatory Action Research (PAR)
- Focus clearly on people and social structures
 - "research which involves all relevant parties in actively examining together current action (which they experience as problematic) in order to change and improve it" (Wadsworth, Y (1998))
 - kinaesthetic learning – ie hands on or learning by doing.

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PR cont

- Pros
 - learning by researching, direct link to uses, tailored to own needs, innovation
- Cons
 - time and effort, cost,
- Mixed
 - transferability, believability (by others), links to policy /program design

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PR in LWA

- Many programs and/or projects based around or include aspects of PR
- Examples include:
 - regional NRM projects on practice change, governance and knowledge management
 - Grain and Graze, Land, Water and Wool