

## PIL507A Research and interpret requirements for a permaculture project

This unit is concerned with the gathering and validating of information necessary to provide essential advice in the investigation, review and evaluation of matters for relating to social and enterprise policy development and decision making for a permaculture project. It requires the ability to select appropriate research strategies, gather information, consult with key people, organise and analyse information, and report the findings of the research. Researching and interpreting requirements for a permaculture project requires knowledge of permaculture principles and practices, research methodologies, consultation models, information systems, report presentation, cultural analysis of information, cultural implications of research methods and legislative requirements.

Element	Performance Criteria
1 Select appropriate <b>research strategies</b>	1.1 Research strategies selected are appropriate for the requirements of the <b>project</b> and the available resources 1.2 A combination of research methods are selected to promote the viability of the outcomes 1.3 The selection of research strategies is negotiated with <b>key people</b>
2 Gather information	2.1 All <b>relevant information sources</b> are identified and suitable methods of collecting information are used 2.2 Materials and aids needed to conduct research are designed and allocated 2.3 <b>Legislative requirements</b> impacting on project are assessed and analysed 2.4 <b>Government departments and agencies</b> with a potential interest in the project are identified 2.5 Information is collected in the determined times and methods and recorded and stored according to negotiations with the sources
3 Consult with <b>key people</b>	3.1 A representative range of people and groups with an interest in the issues is identified and consulted 3.2 Information is reviewed, checked for accuracy and the need for further information is identified and followed up 3.3 Liaison is undertaken with council staff such as

		planners, engineers, community development, enterprise development and elected councillors
	3.4	Consultation is undertaken according to agreed practices and protocol of community
	3.5	The comments and views of all interests consulted are considered and incorporated where relevant
4	Organise and analyse information	<p>4.1 Information is organised in a form that lends itself to analysis and is suitable for the purpose of the research</p> <p>4.2 Information is checked with other available research</p> <p>4.3 Data are confirmed with those who provided it and is reported clearly and comprehensively</p> <p>4.4 Patterns, observations and explanations are justified by the information and the context</p> <p>4.5 The conceptual framework of the analysis and the assumptions is clearly explained to those being consulted and in reporting</p>
5	<b>Report</b> the findings of the research	<p>5.1 Complete and accurate details of the research methodology, information and analysis are reported</p> <p>5.2 Opportunities are provided for the validation of the research findings using a range of feedback from key people and a range of different processes</p> <p>5.3 The research findings are reported in an accessible and useable style and format</p> <p>5.4 The results of the research are reported and made available to all key people who have an interest in the issues researched</p>

## Range of Variables

The Range of Variables defines the different contexts, work environments and parameters governing the performance of this competency standard. The variables chosen in training and assessment will need to reflect local industry and regional contexts.

What <b>research strategies</b> may be relevant to this standard?	These may include library, internet, interviews, direct sourcing of published and verbal information from agencies and council help
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What types of <b>projects</b> may be relevant to this standard?	Individual landholder, private developer, government body or agency, intentional community, ecovillage project, community project, community garden/farm, ecotourism, educational institution, land based
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	enterprise, urban project
What <b>legislative requirements</b> may impact on the project?	Local government planning policies, engineering specifications, development control plans, ordinances, restrictions, zoning, development approval requirements and process, community consultation requirements, national codes and legislation, Australian building code, ASIC, international trade.
What <b>government departments and agencies</b> may be relevant?	Government departments and agencies such as planning, agriculture, fisheries, national parks and wildlife, soil and water resources, fire and emergency services, environmental protection agencies, housing, health, education, building, business and consumer affairs, state regulated legal structures (associations and cooperatives), land tenure.

## Evidence Guide

### What evidence is required to demonstrate competence for this standard as a whole?

Competence in researching and interpreting the requirements for a permaculture project requires evidence that a professional report recommending appropriate courses of action in respect to a permaculture project has been completed following comprehensive research and investigation. The skills and knowledge required to research and interpret the requirements for a given project must be **transferable** to a range of situations including different communities, bioregions and projects.

What <b>specific knowledge is needed to achieve the performance criteria?</b>	<p>Knowledge and understanding are essential to apply this standard in the workplace, to transfer the skills to other contexts and to deal with unplanned events. The knowledge requirements for this unit are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permaculture principles and practices</li> <li>• Research methodologies</li> <li>• Consultation models</li> <li>• Information systems (manual and electronic)</li> <li>• Report presentation</li> <li>• Cultural analysis of information</li> <li>• Cultural implications of research methods</li> <li>• Legislative requirements</li> </ul>
What <b>specific skills are needed to achieve the performance criteria?</b>	<p>To achieve the performance criteria, some complementary skills are required. These skills are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select appropriate research strategies</li> </ul>

- Gather information
- Consult with key people
- Organise and analyse information
- Report the findings of the research

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### What processes should be applied to this competency standard?

There are a number of processes that are learnt throughout work and life, which are required in all jobs. They are fundamental processes and generally transferable to other work functions. Some of these are covered by the **key competencies**, although others may be added. The questions below highlight how these processes are applied in this competency standard. Following each question a number in brackets indicates the level to which the key competency needs to be demonstrated where 0 = not required, 1 = perform the process, 2 = perform and administer the process and 3 = perform, administer and design the process.

1. How can <b>communication of ideas and information (3)</b> be applied?	Oral and written communication with stakeholders will be required.
2. How can <b>information be collected, analysed and organised (3)</b> ?	Information about research design, subject and criteria will be obtained through literature research and consultation.
3. How are <b>activities planned and organised (3)</b> ?	The implementation of the research and presentation of outcomes should proceed in a logical, orderly and efficient manner. Timely and appropriate information needs to be available for decision making. The research design should reflect the activities required to effectively and accurately obtain objective results.
4. How can <b>team work (3)</b> be applied?	The planning, conduct and auditing of the research will involve working with other members of a team to achieve the research objectives.
5. How can the use of <b>mathematical ideas and techniques (3)</b> be applied?	Mathematical concepts will be required to conduct statistical analysis of data from research work.
6. How can <b>problem solving skills (3)</b> be applied?	Problems relating to research design, and monitoring of the research implementation may arise.
7. How can the <b>use of technology (3)</b> be applied?	Technology will be required to record, store and communicate ideas and information consistently, reliably and accurately.

### Are there other competency standards that could be assessed with this one?

This competency standard could be assessed on its own or in combination with other competencies relevant to the job function.

For information about assessing this competency standard for consistent performance and where and how it may be assessed, refer to the **Permaculture International Ltd Course Documentation**.

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