

<b>Northern Australia Irrigation Futures</b>	<b>Charles Darwin University</b>
<b>Tropical Rivers Inventory &amp; Assessment Project</b>	<b>NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment &amp; the Arts</b>

## **Teleconference**

**Thursday 5 October 2006**

**10:30-11:30pm CST**

### **Present:**

Chair: Jeff Camkin, Northern Australia Irrigation Futures (NAIF), Keith Bristow (NAIF), Renee Bartolo, Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project (TRIAP)

### **Apologies:**

Michael Douglas, Charles Darwin University (CDU), Ian Lancaster, NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment & the Arts (NRETA), Rick van Dam, Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project (TRIAP)

### **Agenda:**

1. TRIAP Update
2. NRETA Update
3. CDU Update
4. NAIF Update
5. Collaborative arrangements/opportunities
6. Other business
7. Next Meeting

### **Minutes**

#### **1. TRIAP Update (Renee Bartolo)**

- A first cut of the Relative Risk Model for Northern Australia has been developed. Rick will be taking this along to the TRACK Executive meeting next week.
- Paper on the Daly River catchment Relative Risk Model to be presented at ANCID Conference has been emailed to NRETA stakeholders.
- The paper being presented at ANCID will also be presented at the Australian Water Association NT Nbranch Conference on 20 October.
- Over the coming month we are investigating the impact of climate change on tropical rivers in preparation for the presentation at the North Australia Water Use Experts Summit.
  - Linkage between Renee and Cuan relating to climate change work.

#### **2. NRETA Update (Ian Lancaster)-Via email**

- Formation of the Katherine Water Advisory Committee has been approved by the Minister. This committee will advise government, via the Daly Region Management Advisory Committee, on a Water Allocation Plan for the Tindal Aquifer in the Katherine Region in the first instance. Invitation letters will be sent out next week and an advertisement for Expressions of Interest from local residents is being organised.
- It has also been agreed that there is a strong requirement to form a Mataranka Water Advisory committee as there are concerns with the level of development occurring in that area and the potential for adverse impacts on the Mataranka Hot Springs and the Roper river. Ministerial approval for the formation of this committee has not yet been requested.

- The monitoring, metering and modelling project for the Daly/Darwin Rural area has commenced with tenders being let to investigate metering standards etc next week.
- A new bio-diesel plant in Darwin is currently investigating a program to supplement the current feedstock – coco palm oil from Asia, with a locally grown product. At this point 50,000 Ha of soybeans is being mooted.

### **3. CDU Update (Michael Douglas)-Via email**

- The PM recently announced that the TRACK consortium was successful in getting \$5 million in funding through the RNWS component of the NWI. This additional funding brings the TRACK program to a total of \$16 million in external funds and this represents a major investment in research on rivers and coasts in the north.
- The TRACK Executive Committee will be meeting in Brisbane in October to continue the planning of the TRACK research program.
- Michael Douglas presented an overview of the TRACK program in the northern rivers session at the *Riversymposium* in Brisbane. The northern rivers session was well attended and very interesting variety of speakers and valuable discussions. Thanks to NAIF for organising this session. We should try and include one every year.

### **4. NAIF Update (Keith Bristow and Jeff Camkin)**

- Focus is on preparation for the ANCID meeting. There is an investors forum prior to ANCID to update investors about NAIF.
- There is a meeting with TRACK tentatively scheduled for the 19/20 October to discuss how NAIF compliments TRACK.
- During the next cross project collaboration meeting we need to discuss the Northern Australia Water Use Experts Summit
  - What is the high level agenda?
  - What preparation can we do to maximise value of our input?
- Planning with 3 new PhD students is underway
  - Bart's thesis is due for submission by the end of February 2007.

### **5. Collaborative arrangements / Opportunities**

- Nil

### **6. Other Business**

- Nil

### **7. Next meeting**

Thursday 02 November 2006