

<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 April 2007**

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

### **Present:**

Chair: Jeff Camkin, Northern Australia Irrigation Futures (NAIF), Ian Lancaster, NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment & the Arts (NRETA), Renee Bartolo, Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project (TRIAP), Rick van Dam, Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project (TRIAP)

### **Apologies:**

Keith Bristow (NAIF), Michael Douglas, Charles Darwin University (CDU)

### **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 & Rick van Dam)**

- There was a DEW Water Division visit to Darwin on 3 April. Christine Schweizer, Michael Martin and Kerry Olsen spoke to SSD and TRACK. Two areas of activity:
  - Heffernen Northern Australia Task Force
  - Northern Australia Futures Assessment (the science to inform the Heffernen Task Force)
  - The Northern Australia Futures Assessment is investigating how they will collate data to prioritise areas. Also investigating how the TRIAP outputs and data can contribute to this process.
- TRIAP deadline for submission of draft of SP-2 is 1 June 2007.
  - Fire hazard is being compiled for North Australia and the Daly River by Andrew Edwards (Bushfires NT).
  - Have accessed the National Vegetation Information System (NVIS) to derive riparian habitat spatial coverages.
  - Looking at developing an automated tool to carry out the Relative Risk Model.

#### **2. NRETA Update (Ian Lancaster)**

- Heffernen Task Force and Northern Australia Futures Assessment
  - No contact from Senator Heffernen or Christine Schweizer.
  - Concerns with the amount of resources required to service the Task force, Terms of Reference and Task Force membership.
- Marai Kraatz is compiling information across the Northern Territory for an inland waters project.

ACTION: Ian to send Maria's project brief to this group.

- Proposed meeting with Murray Radcliff regarding water quality in small remote communities (relating to issues such as uranium and arsenic)

### **3. CDU Update (Michael Douglas via email)**

### **4. NAIF Update (Jeff Camkin)**

- Sustainability framework
  - There was a sub-committee meeting in Perth last week
  - Dr Rick Fletcher delivered a presentation on development of ESD for Fisheries and Aquaculture

ACTION: Jeff to send web address for ESD framework to this group.

  - Component trees of ESD are used in the risk assessment to identify highest priorities and management decisions.
  - This approach can be used in North Australia in the following ways:
    - Irrigation and water plans
    - Aiding in government to make decisions
    - Developing ESD objectives for catchments
    - Triple bottom line reporting
    - Identification of knowledge gaps
  - Conducting an analysis of NRM decisions across North Australia
    - Identify ESD components and workshop them
    - Compile a 'how to use' guide
  - Steering Committee has agreed with the approach
  - Demonstrate how the approach might get used in the Burdekin
  - Web based component
  - Ian suggested it could be used for North Australia Futures Assessment

ACTION: Jeff to circulate draft paper to this group.

- Bart Kellett has started as a Policy Officer with the NWC.
- Canberra visit by Keith and Jeff:
  1. Met with Christine Schweizer and Derek White
    - Provided an update on the NAIF project
    - The TOR for the Heffernan Taskforce and the North Australia Futures Assessment are not yet public
  2. NWC
    - Presentation on NAIF and the Sustainability Framework (DEW and LWA staff also attended)
    - Also had a meeting on potential projects following on from NAIF.

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

- Nil

### **6. Other Business**

PRIORITY: Need a clear documented statement on the relationship between NAIF and TRACK.

ACTION: Jeff to follow up with Michael

### **7. Next meeting**

Thursday 07 June 2007