

Northern Australia Irrigation Futures	Charles Darwin University
Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project	NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment & the Arts

Teleconference

Thursday 13 September 2007

9:45-11:30pm CST

Present:

Chair: Keith Bristow (NAIF), Jeff Camkin, Northern Australia Irrigation Futures (NAIF), Ian Lancaster, NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment & the Arts (NRETA), Michael Douglas, Charles Darwin University (CDU), Renee Bartolo, Tropical Rivers Inventory & Assessment Project (TRIAP).

Apologies:

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)

- Northern Australia Futures Assessment project proposal
 - First phase project proposal has been submitted by ERISS: Understanding resources and risks in northern Australia-Part 1: Establishment of a GIS and Interactive Mapping Tool.
 - Aims to collate existing TRIAP data and other existing data that can be used in developing and applying screening criteria for suitability analysis across catchments in the north for development scenarios.
 - Second phase of project would focus on the suitability analysis component in a high level screening approach.
- National Shoreline Geomorphic & Stability Mapping Project
 - National workshop in Tasmania last week.
 - Project funded by the AGO and managed in conjunction with Geoscience Australia. Project team is University of Tasmania.
 - Use existing data to create a national geomorphic coastline map with coastal vulnerability attribute
 - Have offered to supply the TRIAP geomorphic classification of tropical rivers to the project so that they may include the estuarine component.

2. NRETA Update (Ian Lancaster)

- Ord Stage II- visit to Kununurra last week
 - Interest in Ord stage II by Northern taskforce.
 - WA electro-magnetic surveys DEM mapping project (\$1.5 million) for the Ord. NT contacted about extending the surveys into NT-looking at options to get the survey extended (Northern Futures money possibly).

- Advertising for 2 new planning positions-Tindal/Mataranka (Tindal aquifer) and the Ooloo aquifer
- Peter Whitehead has been nominated as the departmental representative on the Water Policy group.

3. CDU Update (Michael Douglas)

- TRACK
 - Progressing with contracting & sub-contracting
 - People are starting to advertise positions
 - Consultations in WA, QLD & NT are underway.
 - 3rd International Symposium on Riverine Landscapes-tropical river experts from around the world were in attendance.
 - Riversymposium: a lot of discussion on environmental flows and some new approaches put forward. Very few examples of where methods have been applied (adaptive cycles) despite majority of the research being around methods. Water ownership and indigenous rights were discussed in the engagement session.

4. NAIF Update (Keith Bristow & Jeff Camkin)

- ANCID
 - Participated in North Australia panel discussion with Senator Heffernan. There was discussion about longer term strategic options and incorporating indigenous perspectives. Also highlighted the opportunity to improve the use of what we already know. Long term visions were discussed along with their pros & cons. 80+ years for planning.
- CRC Irrigation Futures annual research forum underway in Townsville
- NAIF workshops / meetings being held as part of the reporting process across northern Australia, including Brisbane, Ayr, Darwin, Kununurra, Broome, Perth
 - Workshop will be held in Darwin on 24 September

5. Collaborative arrangements / Opportunities

- Nil

6. Other Business

- Nil

7. Next meeting

Thursday 04 October 2007