Australian Government

CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

Reef Rescue Water Quality R&D Program – Inception Workshop

16-17 June 2011 | Brisbane

WHEN:

Day One	Thursday 16 June	9.00 am – 5.15 pm
Day Two	Friday 17 June	8.45 am – 12.30 pm

WHERE: The Stamford Plaza, corner Edward and Margaret Streets, Brisbane

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BACKGROUND:

Reef Rescue is a five year, $200 million investment by the Australian Government under its Caring for our Country initiative. A key component of the Reef Rescue initiative is the Reef Water Quality Research and Development program (R&D program). Through the program, Caring for our Country will invest up to $9 million in Reef water quality R&D until 2013. The approved portfolio of research proposals (see Table 1) cover key Reef Rescue investment priorities including the development, trial and validation of land management practices that improve water quality outcomes in the sugar and grazing sectors. Research will also be conducted into pesticide management and improved water quality and land condition monitoring techniques. The Program will increase knowledge about the cost effectiveness of implementing improved land management practices that have water quality benefits and about the factors affecting practice adoption across industries and regions. It will also inform the effective and efficient delivery of Reef Rescue incentives and contribute to scheduled evaluations of the program's effectiveness and achievements.

Reef water quality research and development is also supported through initiatives such as the National Environmental Research Program (NERP) and various programs under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan. There are strong potential linkages between these initiatives and research to be conducted through the R&D program. The Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC) has been engaged to coordinate and integrate the R&D Program. A key responsibility of the RRRC is to ensure that, to the extent practicable, the work undertaken through these companion programs are complementary and successfully integrated.

PURPOSE of the WORKSHOP:

1. Provide context of how each project fits into the overall portfolio so that all Project Leaders understand the opportunities of the entire Program.
2. Start the planning towards the final reporting of the entire Program as part of making sure we position the need for ongoing research, including in our final reporting a business case for further investment of key gaps in knowledge.
3. Build collaboration firstly between Program Leaders and secondly with program leaders of other relevant research activities (including the Reef Plan Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program, the NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub, the Queensland Reef Regulation R&D Program, and the Reef Plan R&D Strategy, eReefs).
4. Review and finalise the draft program integration framework as a Road Map for Reef R&D that is inclusive and extends across the multiple investment sources.

5. Commence the identification of specific linkages between individual projects and capture data exchange requirements between projects (including specific datasets, timing, and key efficiencies between conducting integrated science).
6. Map the Reef Rescue R&D projects against existing research activity to ensure maximum knowledge capture, sharing of experiences between researchers, utilisation of pre-existing and emerging data, minimising potential for duplication and most importantly, and to provide a framework for research end-users, such as land holders, to receive combined and integrated messages.
7. Discuss and document ongoing communication arrangements for the Program in consultation with lead researchers and the Australian Government and identify appropriate mechanisms for maintaining contact both within the suite of Reef Rescue R&D projects and with other programs.
8. Build a calendar of events to identify opportunities to maximise efficiencies in linking with other research programs, activities and opportunities.

AGENDA

Day 1: Thursday 16 June		
	Item	***Lead***
8.30	**Morning Tea on arrival**	
9.00	**Welcome and introductions, overview & objectives**	Reef Rescue Team
9.15	**1. Program linkage framework** ▪ Present draft program framework for discussion	Col Creighton
9.40	**2. Program overview** *(10 min presentations + brief discussion)* ▪ Session 1: Grazing (9.45-10.30)	Johanna Johnson
10.30	**MORNING TEA** *(15 mins)*	
10.45	***Program overview continued…*** ▪ Session 2: Horticulture & Dairy ▪ Session 3: Sugar ▪ Session 4: Pesticides	Project Leaders
12.45	**LUNCH** *(45 mins)*	
13.30	***Program overview continued…*** ▪ Session 5: Socio economic ▪ Session 6: Monitoring techniques	Project Leaders
14.30	**AFTERNOON TEA** *(15 mins)*	
14.45	**3. Links to other Programs** ▪ Overview of related R&D Programs and linkages ▪ Invite Project Leaders to ask questions re: linkages ▪ Group discussion	Johanna Johnson, Program representatives
16.45	**4. Outstanding gaps across Programs** ▪ Group brainstorming session – where is the integration?	Johanna Johnson
17.15	**Wrap up Day 1 / briefings for Day 2**	Johanna Johnson
19.00	***Option to catch up for Dinner – Port Office Hotel (cnr Margaret and Edward Street)***	

Day 2: Friday 17 June		
	Item	***Lead***
8.30	**Arrival tea and coffee**	
8.45	**5. Revisit outcomes from Day 1**	Johanna Johnson
9.15	**6. Knowledge exchange and delivery** ▪ Coordination role of the RRRC ▪ Key research users present needs and preferred approaches to engagement / delivery ▪ Group discussion and feedback re: audiences, approaches and events for collaboration	Jane Waterhouse / Suzanne Long
10.30	**MORNING TEA** *(15 mins)*	
	Knowledge exchange and delivery continued…	
11.30	**7. MERI and Risk Management Plans** ▪ Feedback and next steps	Reef Rescue team / Jane Waterhouse
11.45	**8. Consolidation of outputs, next steps**	Johanna Johnson / Jane Waterhouse
12.30	**LUNCH and Close**	

List of Attendees

Representative	Organisation
Coordination Team	
Johanna Johnson	C2O Consulting, Facilitator
Jane Waterhouse	C2O Consulting (representing RRRC), Program Management
Sheriden Morris	RRRC, Program Management
Suzanne Long	RRRC, Program Communications
Col Creighton	Program Management
Reef Rescue Team	
Kevin Gale	SEWPaC
Billy Quinn	SEWPaC
Project leaders	
Stuart Whitten	CSIRO
Megan Star	CSIRO
Delwar Akbar	CQU
David Freebairn	RPS Australia East
Trevor Hall	DEEDI
Terry Beutel	DEEDI
Scott Wilkinson	CSIRO
Craig Thornton	DERM
Peter Thorburn	CSIRO
Steve Attard	
Surya Bhattarai (rep David Midmore)	CQU
Bernard Schroeder	BSES
John Reghenzani	Terrain NRM
Jeff Daniells	DEEDI
John Armour	DERM
Beverley Henry	QUT
Jon Brodie	ACTFR
Steve Lewis	ACTFR
Mark Silburn	DERM
Simon Mirtovic (rep Ben Kefford)	UTS
Petra Kuhnert	CSIRO
Erin Peterson	CSIRO
Michelle Devlin	JCU
Program linkages / research users	
Jean Erbacher / Gay Crowley	DERM, Reef Protection Package
John Bennett	DERM
Chris Chinn	DPC, Reef Plan P2R Program
Claire Andersen	DPC, Reef Plan R&D Strategy
Chris Carroll	DERM, Reef Plan P2R - catchment
Sheriden Morris	NERP Tropical Ecosystems
Eva Abal	GBR Foundation

Representative	Organisation
Hugh Yorkston	GBRMPA
Rachael Djamaludin	DEEDI, Sustainable Agriculture
Katrina McArthur	DEEDI, Sustainable Agriculture
John Reghanzani	Terrain NRM
Ian Dight	NQ Dry Tropics
Will Higham	Reef Catchments
Claire Rodgers	Fitzroy Basin Association
Piers Harper	Fitzroy Basin Association
Cathy Mylrea	Burnett Mary NRM
Industry	
Matt Kealley	Canegrowers
N/A	BSES
Bianca Cairns	SRDC
Mick Quirk	MLA

Table 1. Successful Reef Rescue R&D Projects and Project Leaders

Project ID	Project Title	Project Leader & Organisation	Email Address
	Socio-Economic Subprogram		
RRRD039	Integrated assessment of BMP cost-effectiveness and decision tool for regions and landholders	Stuart Whitten CSIRO	stuart.whitten@csiro.au
RRRD010	Factors affecting adoption of land management practices that have water quality benefits in the GBR catchments: Evaluation scenarios for Cane Farming	Delwar Akbar University Central Queensland	d.akbar@cqu.edu.au
RRRD011	Capturing historic small catchment study (paddock scale) data to support quantification of management impacts on water quality on the Great Barrier Reef	David Freebairn RPS Australia East	david.freebairn@rpsgroup.com.au
	Grazing Practices Subprogram		
RRRD024	Quantifying the impacts of rehabilitating degraded lands on soil health, pastures, runoff, erosion, nutrient and sediment movement	Trevor Hall DEEDI	trevor.hall@deedi.qld.gov.au
RRRD027	Getting ground cover right – thresholds and baselines for a healthier reef	Robert Karfs DEEDI	robert.karfs@deedi.qld.gov.au
RRRD032	Improving grazing management practices to enhance ground cover and reduce sediment loads	Scott Wilkinson CSIRO	scott.wilkinson@csiro.au
RRRD009	Runoff Nitrogen generation rates from pasture legumes – an enhancement to reef catchment modelling	Craig Thornton DERM	craig.thornton@derm.qld.gov.au
	Sugar Practices Subprogram		
RRRD056	Evaluating and improving A-Class practices to control nutrient losses from sugarcane	Peter Thorburn CSIRO	peter.thorburn@csiro.au
RRRD004	Advanced drip and optimised furrow irrigation to minimise sediment, nutrient and pesticide losses to the environment through deep drainage and runoff from sugarcane and banana industries of wet tropics in northern Queensland	David Midmore University Central Queensland	d.midmore@cqu.edu.au
RRRD020	Mineralisation of nitrogen within the sugarcane cropping system following legume fallows and its effect on water quality	Bernard Schroeder BSES Limited	bschroeder@bses.org.au
	Horticulture Practices Subprogram		
RRRD049	Minimising off-farm movement of nitrogen and phosphorus in the north Queensland banana industry	John Reghenzani Terrain NRM	johnr@terrain.org.au
RRRD054	Development of a banana modelling capability to enhance reporting of Reef Rescue outcomes	Tony Webster CSIRO	tony.webster@csiro.au
	Dairy Practices Subprogram		
RRRD055	Validating the cost/benefits of improved fertiliser practices and quantifying nutrient loads and pathways from irrigated dairy pastures in the Wet Tropics and the Burnett-Mary regions	Ruth McInnes Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation	ruth@dairypage.com.au
	Chemicals (Herbicides and Pesticides) Subprogram		
RRRD037	Pesticide dynamics in the Great Barrier Reef catchment and lagoon: management practices in the sugarcane industry	Jon Brodie James Cook University	jon.brodie@jcu.edu.au
RRRD038	Pesticide dynamics in the Great Barrier Reef catchment and lagoon: management practices	Jon Brodie James Cook	jon.brodie@jcu.edu.au

Project ID	Project Title	Project Leader & Organisation	Email Address
	(grazing, bananas and grain crops) and risk assessments	University	
RRRD058	A novel biological method of monitoring herbicides	Ben Kefford Uni of Technology Sydney (UTS)	ben.kefford@uts.edu.au
	Improved Water Quality and Landscape Condition Monitoring Techniques		
RRRD030	Pollutant load estimation for Great Barrier Reef (GBR) catchments: Accounting for the uncertainty in monitoring and modelled data using data assimilation techniques	Petra Kuhnert CSIRO	petra.kuhnert@csiro.au
RRRD016	Developing integrated assessment metrics for reporting of water quality in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon	Vittorio Brando CSIRO	vittorio.brando@csiro.au