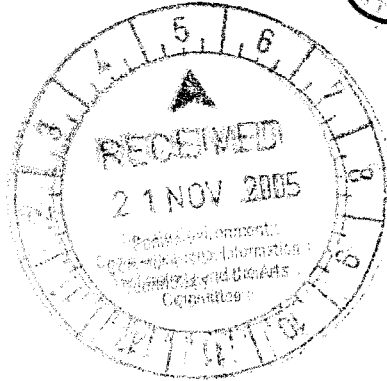




Government of South Australia
The Department of Water, Land
and Biodiversity Conservation



CENTRE FOR NATURAL
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Knowledge & Information
Division

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17 November 2005

Dr Robin Clough,
Senate Environment Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Reference Committee,
Inquiry into the Long-term success of Federal Programs that seek to reduce
the extent and economic impact of salinity in the Australian environment,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**Submission from
Chair of the South Australian Centre for Natural Resource Management**

Dear Dr Clough:

The Centre has been provided with funding specifically for research into National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) priorities. This was done as part of the bilateral agreement between the Australian Government and the State of South Australia. The Regional Natural Resource Management Boards, in place at the time, supported the initiative. Although the Centre is based in South Australia, 7 projects have links to other states, principally Victoria.

Regional research priorities that related to NAP were developed with the Regional Boards and their staff and researchers from the different research organisations in South Australia. Projects were developed and the list below provides those that have been assessed by scientific expertise and approved for funding by the NRM Joint Steering Committee and the South Australian and Australian Government Ministers responsible for NAP funding programs. The conduct of the respective projects is the responsibility of the research organisation that has developed the research proposal.

Projects from tranche one of funding (2003)

Name of project	Summary	Research organisation doing the project
A best practice framework for the design and interpretation of monitoring programs for water-dependent ecosystems	This project will develop a best practice framework for the design and interpretation of monitoring programs for water dependent ecosystems in South Australia.	Flinders University and the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.
Plant Biometrics and Biomass Productivity in the River Murray Dryland Corridor.	The use of biometric methodologies to determine the primary productivity of plantations of low rainfall agroforestry species as possible land use to combat dry land salinity. Linked to the National Flora Search Project	South Australian Officers of the National Flora Search Project and the National CRC-for plant based management of dry land salinity
Land Repair Fund	Economic review of the possibility of a land repair fund that takes degraded land and identify the steps required to develop land repair funds and provided examples of a business plan and offer information statement that might be used as a guide in the establishment of such a fund.	Institute for International Development Limited with input from CSIRO, DWLBC, Australian Valuers Office
Landscape Futures: mallee Futures Project "developing the process and models to visualise the future"	The project is to analyse the impact of existing regional plans and investment strategies on natural resources with consideration given to community well being and explore future options and scenarios for the lower Murray to improve outcomes for investment by regional groups in natural resource management	CSIRO, University of Adelaide, Primary Industries Research Victoria
Stockyard Plains: Development of an aquaculture system to exploit saline groundwater	Preliminary studies towards a review of the ability of inception scheme water in the Murray Darling Basin to support aquaculture.	South Australian Research Development Institute, Aquatic Sciences Division
Productive use for saline groundwater using semi intensive integrated aquaculture	Following from the previous study the development of a model aquaculture system to exploit saline groundwater from salt inception schemes in the Murray Darling Basin. Study lead to further study to investigate the development of aquiculture production using saline water and the full development of a major research site currently being established	South Australian Research Development Institute, Aquatic Sciences Division
Value Adding to Salts Recovered from Saline Waters in Disposal Basins of the Murray-Darling Basin	This project was a review and proof of Concept Study of saline water disposal Basins. 12 sites were reviewed. 8 of these were in Victoria/NWS. 4 in SA	Murray Darling Basin Commission. The project team had CSIRO staff from Melbourne, Adelaide and DWLBC expertise

Projects from tranche two of funding (2004 - 2005) are:

Name of project	Summary	Research organisation doing the project
Lower Murray Landscape Phase 2 Futures	<p>This pilot will focus on the future landscapes of the Mallee region, and in particular on the shape of those future landscapes with end of valley salinity targets to meet.</p> <p>The project will also examine the range of other drivers that are key to shaping the future landscapes of the Mallee- factors like population, biodiversity preservation, sustainable agriculture, global markets etc.</p>	CSIRO, University of Adelaide, Primary Industries Research Victoria, DWLBC
Managing horticultural production under a more saline environment	<p>This research project will address high priority gaps in our knowledge of how to manage irrigated crop production with changes in seasonal distribution of salinity and reduced irrigation, particularly in irrigation seasons in which the Murray-Darling River flows have a high salinity.</p>	South Australian Research Development Institute,
Minimising salt accession in the South East	<p>The outcomes of the program will be to provide practical alternatives to land use activities that are identified as having adverse impacts upon the regions water resources. The program will produce recommendations that have consideration of the long term and short balance of social, economic and environmental aspects.</p>	DWLBC Mt Gambier
Protecting Blue Lake Water Quality	<p>This research project will define the necessary land management practices for ensuring the sustainability of the Blue Lake and the groundwater within the catchment zone of the Blue Lake.</p>	CSIRO
Establishment of commercial aquaculture parks aligned to major saline groundwater interception schemes	<p>This research project will evaluate the commercial aquaculture potential of selected species and culture systems using ground water from the Woolpunda/Waikerie/Qualco Salinity Interception Scheme (SIS) that discharges into the Stockyard Plains Disposal Basin (SPDB).</p>	South Australian Research Development Institute, Aquatic Sciences Division

Further research projects have been developed and are currently being assessed for their value to research into the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) objectives.

The Regional NRM Boards are represented on the Centre for Natural Resource Management Board and are also provided with briefings on project progress.

As projects are completed they will be placed onto the Centre's website which is currently being updated and is located at <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/nrm/centre/index.html>.

Further work is being undertaken with research brokering organisations and researchers to clarify the research needs of the Regional Boards and the State NRM Council over the next 5 years and support a coordinated approach to the development of research proposals. The Centre has also developed a link to Land and Water Australia and their National Research Brokering Project as outlined by Mr Andrew Campbell in Canberra (page 22-23) Hansard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Radcliffe". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr John Radcliffe AM FTSE
Chair, Centre for Natural Resource Management Board