

Appendix 1

Notes from Interviews with NPSI Management Committee Members

7th February 2005

Denis Flett GM-W

–called and emailed for follow-up.

Ted Gardner Qld DNRM

– spoke briefly, emailed for follow-up (*see note on 16th February discussion with Murray Chapman below*)

Peter Hayes, Southcorp

- Trade off of look vs outcome
- Need to look beyond influencing individual irrigators to communities and investors
- Communities are wider than irrigators and include industries and banks.
- Need for “whole-of-project” life investment and an understanding of what will be left at the end – what legacy will we leave behind?
- No longer sufficient to prop up investments using interventions. Need to understand:
Acceptable type of cropping
- Best practice
- Equity vs debt funders
- 3D and 4D (time) models showing changes of system in the long term.
- Recommended: talk with Peter Day re his work related to sharing of landscapes. Scoping up how to get communities engaged. The current project should reinforce Peter’s findings / adopt recommended approaches.

Gerrit Schrale, PIRSA

- Need for a coffee table book aimed at any farmer.
- Use classical cross-section for irrigation on highlands
- Establish direct link between irrigators and returns to river.
- Groundwater irrigation areas require a brief write up – Padthaway irrigation development story would be a good one.
- Issue – not giving adequate displacement
- Stirling – irrigation of high EC water (3000 – 5000 EC); comment on sustainability.
- Combined discussion of Burdekin and delta groundwater where saline intrusions occur.
- Riverine system – prior stream systems, river beds fast transmitters of return water, salts, etc.
- Irrigation development and necessary losses – key message is have to establish harmony with the deep drainage of the landscape.
- Increase understanding what is going on via:
 - Identifying principles
 - Colour pictures
 - Key messages.
- Key objective – get the message out.

- Deliverable – a glossy book valued because of content, increased awareness of groundwater systems and linkage to irrigation.

Ross Dalton, DAFF

1. Policy / on-ground action

General approach of NPSI program to identify:

- Gaps in policy framework
 - Externalities of groundwater use
 - Recommendations for actions/adoption of findings
2. Approach for this project – ‘taking a punt’ and trading off accessibility vs content.
- Similar thinking to NLWRA in terms of audience and potentially web based delivery.

16th February 2005

Notes from a teleconference with Murray Chapman and Ted Gardner (unable to contact Ross Dalton or Lois Hunt in the short time frames for this event).

Ted’s view is that the main audience is non-technical policy makers who require information which is simple but not misleading.

He sees a need to address a range of irrigation systems with special issues. This will reflect the landscape which they fit into - for example, Emerald has shallow water tables on basalt, Condamine alluvial strip, Lockyer, Callide, groundwater systems with recharge. Proserpine/Bundaberg/Mackay/Burdekin – delta with groundwater use and artificial recharge and floodplain issues (K Bristow). For Queensland we need to talk to John Hillier especially for the Burdekin.

What are the special problems that ‘deep leads’ cause?

GHD report 10 years ago predicted we would now have saline water within 1m of the surface – what has happened – Good news story.

Publication needs to be interesting, entertaining and pertinent.

Explore potential to use formats other than Water Innovation, including books by the Kondinin Group (WA), CSIRO series of catchment hydrology books – last year or two (ring folder).

Bibliography – it is important to have a bibliography, especially one which captures grey literature, but importantly need to provide contacts on how to get hold of the literature.

In summary,

- Major clients are policy makers (banks, government, qangos, ...)
- Don't talk transmissivity, Storativity (ie avoid jargon)
- Need to collate data from different states and regions
- Need a list of areas and the 'guts of each'
- Ideally the book will then provide an overview of the situation with the opportunity to delve in deeper if you have the interest.

URS noted that first week's Progress Report did not list names of state contacts – advised that this was because we hadn't finished that part of the review by that stage.

Discussed the detail of case studies and agreed that there is a need for a 'round up' of potential sites and issues as above, but it would be a good idea to work up one case study in detail (eg Loxton).