



final report

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MINTRAC environment managers' network

Milestone 2 report

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1 Milestone requirements

- final summary of schedule v actual network meetings and professional development activities
- summary of stakeholder consultation and involvement in networks
- summary of issues raised, initiatives and outcomes of the network for year
- recommendations for the coming year.

2 Background

This project has built on the experience gained and the processes developed in 2006/7 when the Environment Managers network was first established. This is a state based network of researchers, regulators, trainers and practitioners which mirrors the Training and QA Managers Networks. This year the network moved to expand the involvement of the regulators and industry peak bodies such as AMIC and expand the opportunities for environment managers, researchers and regulators to use the network as forum to explain, explore and discuss new issues and innovations.

This network is still in its infancy but is already well supported by industry bodies, the State and Federal regulators and a growing number of processors. This is leading to some valuable networking and some ideas for the future directions we need to take make the network self sustaining. In this its second year a greater level of maturity in the networks interaction with the regulators has been experienced and greater benefits derived for both industry and the research agencies.

The two main functions of the network are to:

- organise network meetings in every mainland State twice a year involving interaction between the processors and researchers, AMIC, state and federal regulators, technical experts and technology suppliers.
- professional development workshops delivered in selected regional centres aimed at meeting training and professional development need identified by industry.

3 Requirements

The project had two main milestones as detailed below

Achievement Criteria		Due Date
1	Report on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meeting schedule and delivery plan for 2007/8 • summary of outcomes and activities for first six months • evaluation strategy developed. 	14-Dec-2007 Completed
2	Final report detailing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • final summary of schedule v actual network meetings and professional development activities • summary of stakeholder consultation and involvement in networks • summary of issues raised, initiatives and outcomes of the network for year • recommendations for the coming year. 	13-Jun-2008 Completed

3.1 Milestone requirement 1 – final summary of schedule v actual network meetings and professional development activities

Activities and Achievements

Network Meetings (first and second round)

The following network meetings were held nation wide.

State	Location	Venue	Date
SA	Adelaide	Rydges Adelaide South Park	Tuesday 27 th November 2007 Friday 13 June 2008
QLD	Brisbane	Comfort Inn and Suites Northgate Motel	Wednesday 22 August 2007 Friday 20 June 2008
NSW	Young	Mercure Sydney Airport Hotel	Thursday 1 November 2007 TBA (Monday 4 August 2008)
WA	Perth	Citigate Perth Hotel	Wednesday 7 November 2007 Friday 23 May 2008
VIC	Melbourne	Melbourne University Private	Wednesday 17 th October 2007 Friday 11 April 2008

The agendas are slightly different in each State depending on state issues and the availability of guest speakers. A sample of the agendas, minutes and attendance sheets for each round are included in Attachment One to this report. The actual agendas and minutes for these meetings plus speaker presentations are on the MINTRAC web site mintrac.com.au under "news and events". The Second NSW environment managers was to be held in Young to see the methane capture and co-generation project but operational difficulties lead BMP to ask us to postpone the meeting to August 4 2008.

Professional Development for Environment Managers

In response to industry requests professional development training has been run interpreting water testing results and waste water plant operation. This training was well supported by industry.

State	Location	Venue	Date
VIC	Melbourne	Melbourne University Private, 442 Auburn Road, HAWTHORN VIC 3122	Wednesday 27 February 2008
WA	Bunbury	Parade Hotel, 1 Austral Parade Bunbury WA 6230	Friday 29 February 2008
NSW	Tamworth	Peel Valley Exporters, Tamworth NSW	Tuesday 4 March 2008

The Certificate III in Waste Water Management was completed this year as well.

State	Location	Venue	Date
NSW	Wagga Wagga	Cargill Beef Australia	Beginning 28 May 2007

The Network is also responsible for organising / facilitating the water re-use conferences that have been run in each of the main land States. These workshops have involved AMIC, AQIS, State Meat and Health Authorities and researchers. The Agenda for the workshops forms Attachment 2 to this report. The purpose of the workshops was to discuss and explore what is possible in terms of water use reduction and re-use.

State	Location	Venue	Date
NSW	Wagga Wagga	Country Comfort Wagga Wagga, Corner Morgan and Tarcutta Streets, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650	Wednesday 16 April 2008
QLD	Brisbane	Watermark Hotel, 551 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill, Brisbane QLD 4000	Wednesday 23 April 2008
VIC	Melbourne	Melbourne University Private, 442 Auburn Road, Hawthorn VIC 3122	Monday 28 April 2008
SA	Adelaide	Rydges Adelaide South Park, 1 South Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000	Monday 5 May 2008
WA	Bunbury	Parade Hotel, 1 Austral Parade Bunbury WA 6230	Thursday 8 May 2008

3.2 Milestone requirement 2 – summary of stakeholder consultation and involvement in networks

The project has made considerable progress in attracting industry participation and just as importantly we are making real traction with the regulatory and industry bodies. AMIC is now fully engaged with the network and every single State Department of Environment or equivalent has had speakers and participants at network meetings.

However industry participation is still on occasions patchy and we struggle to get this industry engagement but the progress this year has been very encouraging. By this time next year we should have this environment managers' network functioning as well as the other two networks. In addition to the main target audience or participants a range of other organisations are keen to establish communication channels with the industry. These include:

- industry consultants
- municipal governments
- non slaughtering establishments such as tallow processors

Commonwealth Government bodies such as the Australian Greenhouse Office and the National Pollution Inventory.

The training that was identified by the networks and set up in each State has been well patronised and we are hopeful of another big training year in 2008/9.

3.3 Milestone requirement 3 - summary of issues raised, initiatives and outcomes of the network for year

Water Re-use

The need for water use reduction and reuse strategies still continues to be an issue for most parts of Australia with the seven year drought continuing unabated in many regions.

The roll out of the finalised AQIS notice on water re-use and the release of the results of the MLA water re-use research project will be one of the networks main initiatives early in the new financial year.

Changes in reporting procedures

Most of the State EPAs or equivalent authorities have introduced new reporting requirements for water and energy use. The network has worked hard to engage these authorities to explain the changes at the network meetings. Likewise the National Pollution Inventory has also changed its reporting requirements and expanded those who are required to report.

3.4 Milestone requirement 4 - recommendations for the coming year

MINTRAC is going to have to concentrate on a range of initiatives to further energise the network.

1. Launch a specific campaign to engage the environment managers in each processing plant on a person to person to identify
 - technical and regulatory issues that are of paramount importance
 - the form and content for future workshops that will help them expand their technical expertise and competency in handling current issues
 - types of technology that they need to know more about.
2. Engage AMIC and the regulators in identifying topics of importance well in advance.
3. Integrating into and becoming an extension of the AMPC's environment committee planning and the resultant MLA research projects.

4 Attachment 1

A sample of the agendas, attendance and minutes sheets from the MINTRAC Environment Managers Network Meeting

Example

MINTRAC Environment Managers Network Meeting WA, Friday 23 May 2008

Date: Friday 23 May 2008

Location: Citigate Perth Hotel, 707 Wellington Street, Perth WA 6000

Time: 8.30am – 12.00pm

Agenda

Item no.	Item	Discussion led by
	Attendance	MINTRAC
	Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings	MINTRAC, RTOs, Industry
	Training for industry environment personnel: What is currently available Courses for second half of 2008	MINTRAC
	Water audits Benefits and pitfalls How to go about it Industry support	Tony Farrugia, Ecowise
	The Department of the Environment and Conservation and the meat processing sector.	Nanette Schapel, WA DEC
	Update on emissions trading, who will be liable parties under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting legislation.	David Liversidge, AGO
	Draft AQIS Notice on water reuse & the State water reuse meetings	AQIS
	Greenhouse Challenge Plus Program	David Liversidge, AGO
	Waste water and irrigation guidelines.	Industry
	Other business	Industry

MINTRAC Environment Manager Network Meeting, WA

Friday 23 May 2008, Citigate Perth Hotel, 707 Wellington Street, Perth WA 6000

Note: The minutes record items in the order they are listed on the Agenda. Some items were addressed out of order during the meeting.

Matters arising from previous meetings

- Interpreting water testing results
- Funds for waste water management training
- *Guidelines for water quality for irrigation* – A meeting to be set up meeting for further discussion/negotiation with the key players. Arose from an amendment to the water quality notice which was amended without consultation with industry – put in place a 30 day withholding period –discrepancy with federal notice and apparently not supported by scientific evidence.

Training for industry environment personnel

- *Waste Water Management Certificate II available* – a plant site is required to host the course, and 6-10 participants needed. Some east based plants requested a combination course with level III. Run in two blocks x 4 days plus assignments, workplace projects etc. Need to advertise the course content for both Certificate II and III. Would like to start beginning of September. Cost will be about \$1,000 - \$1500 per person.
- Other requests:
 - Composting workshop – considerable interest

Water audits

(Presentation by Dr Tony Farrugia, this presentation is available on the MINTRAC website)

Discussion points which arose during the presentation:

- Offal transport – alternative systems; what are the options?
- Reduce nozzle sizes on hoses.
- MINTRAC is looking for a company willing to provide training to cleaners in water awareness; need to have capacity to measure water consultation before and after.
- Membrane systems - anyone in meat industry using? Poultry industry – Inghams is using one.
- *Financial return on waste water re-use systems?* – Big variations, depending on systems; often big up-front capital cost - driver is usually legislation.

The Department of the Environment and Conservation and the meat processing sector

(Presentation by Paul Byrnes and Nanette Schapel, this presentation is available on the MINTRAC website)

Discussion points which arose during the presentation:

- The meat industry needs to do some long term planning to ensure environmental sustainability; DEC looking very closely at meat industry applications
- *Annual Audit Compliance Report: (AACR)* now in place (April 2008) – allows plant to improve self-monitoring; will be placed on website; to be submitted with annual environment monitoring reports; is available on DEC website www.dec.wa.gov.au
- *Process for seeking an amendment to monitoring and reporting requirements?* (e.g. required to take samples from a brook, but not always running) Is proponent instigated – 21 day letter – fairly simple processes – through local branch of DEC.

- *AACR duplicating the conditions of the license?* Not really, but cover page is key component.
- *Participants encouraged to phone up and discuss issues* – DEC is using an open approach.

Update on emissions trading, who will be liable parties under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting legislation

(Presentation by David Liversidge, this presentation is available on the MINTRAC website)

Discussion points which arose during the presentation:

- System of national 'gateways' to be in place; penalty will be a requirement to purchase offsets; scheme will start in 2010.
- Every meat industry company has capacity to reduce emissions.
- Rudd government likely to set firm targets.
- Opportunity to reduce costs through offsets.
- Challenge is how to calculate emissions?
- Green paper due out 1 July 2008 – possible to make comments on this – www.climatechange.gov.au (go to media releases)
- Government aim is to not disadvantage industry or companies.
- Online OSCAR reporting will be sued.
- *National Pollution Inventory?* – to be listed as an agenda item for next meeting.

Draft AQIS Notice on water reuse and the state water reuse meetings

Copies of the draft notice were distributed. This is also on the MINTRAC website.

- Not sure how long before this becomes official.
- AMIC putting it out through state consultative process and will give feedback to AQIS.
- Chaney feedback is to be provided to AMIC.
- Draft finalised – goes to EMIAC and will then be placed on website.
- Aim is to facilitate industry's needs in relation to water re-use.
- As projects are approved it will go onto either MINTRAC, AMIC or MLA website (except where there are commercial-in-confidence issues)
- MINTRAC will be running workshops on projects that work.

Greenhouse Challenge Plus program

(Presentation by David Liversidge, this presentation is available on the MINTRAC website)

Discussion points which arose during the presentation:

- *What are noxious gases apart from CO₂?* – methane, laughing gas, N₂O, synthetic gases (refrigeration)
- The key thing about climate change is the *rate* of change.
- Australian Greenhouse Office has been split into several new departments
- There is a template available for companies to work out what carbon footprint is – done under ABN to prevent double-counting.
- Newsletters and CDs about the program were handed out to attendees
- If liable have to register by 1 July (liable? See slide) Probably only impacts larger meat companies.
- Timelines – are in 17th March media release. Green paper is next.
- Best way of leaning is getting involved in program.
- *Young methane project* – still on trial? – Yes – is flaring regularly and has solved odour row with town; visitation planned for August – attendees welcome.

Waste water and irrigation guidelines

Covered in business arising

Other business

- *National Pollution Inventory?* Possible for PIP projects? Sometimes scientific language is not accessible.

Meeting closed at 12.00noon

5 Attachment 2

Water Re-use Conference Agenda

NSW Water Re-use Conference

Date: Wednesday 16 April 2008

Location: Country Comfort Wagga Wagga, Corner Morgan and Tarcutta Streets, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Time: 10.00am – 4.15pm

Agenda

Item no.	Time	Item	Discussion led by
	10.00 – 10.10	Welcome	Conrad Blaney AMIC
	10.10 – 10.25	Setting the scene	Conrad Blaney AMIC
	10.25 – 10.45	Recycled water	John Langbridge AQIS
	10.45 – 11.15	Water Industry Perspective (technical)	Christobel Ferguson ECOWISE
	11.15 – 11.30	<i>Morning Tea</i>	
5.	11.30 – 12.30	AQIS Meat Notice	John Langbridge AQIS
	12.30 – 13.15	<i>Lunch</i>	
6.	13.15 – 13.45	Industry Guide to Water Re-Use	MLA Ian Jenson
7.	13.45 – 14.15	Water Risk Assessment project	MLA Ian Jenson
8.	14.15 – 14.45	State jurisdictions, interstate dialogue.	Kerry Bell
	14.45 – 15.00	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>	
9.	15.00 – 15.30	State Food Regulator Session	David Myles State Meat Authority
10.	15.30 – 16.00	What is possible now?	Industry interaction
11.	16.00 – 16.15	Where to go from here?	AQIS / AMIC/ MLA

