



final report

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Prepared by: Clive Richardson
MINTRAC
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Locked Bag 991
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MINTRAC Environment Network

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1 Milestone requirements:

Final Report detailing:

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

1.1 Milestone requirement 1:

Final summary of scheduled versus actual network meetings and professional development activities summary of stakeholder consultation and involvement in networks

MINTRAC has completed the program for the first and second rounds of Environment Managers' network meetings and professional development. This year a wide range of speakers from State Environmental Agencies, MLA, FSA and AMIC have been invited to deliver sessions to upgrade the environment manager's sources of information and understanding of the changing operating environment. A generic agenda for the meetings forms Attachment One to this report.

The timetables for 2008/9 are detailed below.

2008/9 Network meeting dates

State	Location	Venue	Date
NSW	Dubbo	Fletcher International	Tuesday 16 September 2008
QLD	Brisbane	Comfort Inn & Suites, 186 Toombul Road, Northgate QLD 4013	Friday 19 September 2008
SA	Adelaide	Rydges Adelaide South Park, 1 South Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000	Monday 20 October 2008
WA	Perth	Citigate Perth Hotel, 707 Wellington	Friday 14

		Street, Perth WA 6000	November 2008
VIC	Melbourne	Melbourne University Private, 442 Auburn Road, Hawthorn VIC 3122	Friday 5 December 2008
QLD	Brisbane	Comfort Inn & Suites, 186 Toombul Road, Northgate QLD 4013	Thursday 26 February 2009
WA	Perth	Comfort Inn Bel Eyre Motel, 285 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont WA 6104	Thursday 12 March 2009
SA	Adelaide	Rydges Adelaide South Park, 1 South Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000	Thursday 14 May 2009
VIC	Melbourne	Melbourne University Private, 442 Auburn Road, Hawthorn VIC 3122	Thursday 28 May 2009
NSW	Singleton	E C Throsby Pty Ltd, Corner Golden & New England Highways, Whittingham NSW 2330	Wednesday 6 May 2009

Two network meetings have been run in the year 2008/9 in all mainland states. The highlights of this year's network meetings have included sessions on:

- the Government's carbon emissions policies
- composting paunch contents
- covering anaerobic ponds and capturing methane
- co-generation of electricity
- demand management of electricity.

The last round of meetings has also seen increased support for this project from industry, regulators and AMIC (See Attachment 2 for the Attendance Report). The network is starting to fire in most States. The increased participation of AMIC and the State regulators have been very useful in stimulating interest. At this stage, with participation approaching viable levels, it will be worth undertaking a formal evaluation of the network in the same way that the QA and Training Managers network has been evaluated.

1.2 Milestone requirement 2

Evaluation outcomes

MINTRAC conducts regular evaluations of all the networks it facilitates. The purpose of the evaluation is to:

- identify if the networks continue to be of relevance/importance to attendees
- identify if the networks are of value to the industry
- identify strengths of the networks

- identify weaknesses of the networks

MINTRAC does this evaluation by conducting a survey of attendees, non-attendees regulators and industry bodies such as AMIC. Prior to this there had been insufficient interaction with the bulk of the industry. The formal evaluation using the evaluation tool developed (Attachment 3) will take place in the next three months. The professional development activities have fallen into one of two formats. The first format sees the PD delivered in short seminars as part of the day long Environment Managers' Network meetings and this is by far the most productive approach. The second format which got little support this year was to offer half day workshops as part of an accredited training program. This was tried in three States and did not get sufficient industry to support to run. Next year MINTRAC will promote these courses more vigorously and have them as stand alone rather than as adjuncts to an Environment managers' network meeting.

The network will also continue to explore ways of delivering the waste water management courses through distance education to allow participants from all over Australia to undertake the training.

1.3 Milestone requirement 3

Summary of issues raised, initiatives and outcomes of the network for the year

MINTRAC at the end of 2007/8 recommended that it would have to concentrate on a range of initiatives to further energise the network. These initiatives were to include.

1. Launching a specific campaign to engage the environment managers in each processing plant on a person to person basis 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.

This year (2008/9) MINTRAC has made a point of contacting all the environment managers' personally and seeking their input into the network's program. But the most effective strategy has been involving the State EPAs and AMIC for presentations and input. This has not only increased the relevance of the agenda but improved the flow of information for the industry.

MINTRAC has also focused on working with MLA and AMIC to understand how the network can best be utilised by AMPC's environment committee, this is still a work in-progress.

1.4 Milestone requirement 4

Recommendations for the coming year

1. The most successful State meetings have been those based on a "show and tell" theme with a plant visit to see and discuss the implementation of a piece of technology e.g. the covering of anaerobic ponds, on-site composting etc. MINTRAC intends to identify sites of interest and seek to fund meetings at those sites.
2. Energy costs continue to be a significant issue for processing plants and MINTRAC will continue to assist with the roll out of the MLA Efficiency Manual and encourage the participation of energy providers to discuss efficiency strategies.

3. Water will continue to be an issue with processors and MINTRAC will be working with sites to explore the impact of training on water use by cleaners.
4. MINTRAC and AMIC will sit with EPA officers and work to improve communication strategies with the industry. This in turn will improve EPA participation in the networks.
5. MINTRAC in conjunction with RTOs will identify ways of offering more flexible training opportunities to industry personnel.

2 Attachment

2.1 Attachment One

State Environment Managers' Network Generic Agendas for Round One and TWO 2008/9
MINTRAC Environment Managers' network meeting (Generic)

Draft Agenda Round One

Item no.	Item	Discussion led by
1.	Attendance	MINTRAC
2.	Matters arising from previous meetings	MINTRAC
3.	"Composting: Turning waste management into product development".	Dr Pam Pittaway
4.	Greenhouse and Energy Management - EEO, NGRS, CPRS (emissions trading) - what does it mean for your company?	Tracey Colley
5.	Emissions Trading and the implications for meat processing companies ; an AMIC report	AMIC
6.	QLD EPA "What's new in the regulatory world."	Ian Eskdale EPA
7.	Water Savings-Results and ideas coming from the MLA study.	Eco-wise
8.	Eco-biz a project of the Sustainable Industries section of the EPA	T Biddle, Qld EPA
9.	Solid Waste management	Neil McPhail (FSA)

MINTRAC Environment Managers' network meeting (Generic)

Draft Agenda Round Two

Item no.	Item	Discussion led by
10.	Attendance	MINTRAC
11.	Matters arising from previous meetings	MINTRAC
12.	CPRS and the meat industry	Conrad Blaney, AMIC
13.	What's new with the EPA	TBA
14.	CPRS- Accounting for Meat Processing Plants	Tracey Colley
15.	Intelligent Refrigeration control project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A CSRIO Project 	Glenn Platt, CSIRO Division of Energy Technology
16.	How anaerobic ponds work?	Mike Johns
17.	Industry experience	Industry
18.	Site visit -	Industry
19.	What needs to be done to make covering ponds more viable?	Industry

2.2 Attachment Two: Attendance Report

Company	Environment
Meat Processing Companies	
Adelaide Poultry Fresh Choice	Yes
ACC	Yes
Australian Food Corporation	Yes
Aust Lamb Company Pty Ltd	Yes
BE Campbell	
Big River Pork	Yes
Bindaree	Yes
Burrangong	Yes
Cargill	Yes
Churchill abattoir	Yes
CRF	Yes
Dalriada	
Dardanup Butchering Co	Yes
Don KRC	Yes
D'Orsogna Pty Ltd	
EC Throsby	Yes
Eversons Food Processors	
Fletcher International (NSW)	Yes
Fletcher International (WA)	Yes
Frewstal	
G&K O'Connor	
The Game Meat Company of Australia	
Gathercole Meat	
GBP Exports	Yes
Geraldton Meat Exporters	
George Weston Foods	
GinGin Meat works	
GM Scott	Yes
Gordyn's Pty Ltd	
Greenham (Tas) & (Vic)	Yes
Gundagai Food Processors	
Hans continental	Yes
Hardwicks	
Harvey Industries	Yes
International Exporters	
Kilcoy	Yes
Lobethal	
Macro Meats Gourmet Game	

Company	Environment
MC Herd	
Metro Velda	
Midfield	Yes
Milton District Meats	
Moe Meat Packers	
Monbeef	Yes
Nippon Meat Packers	
Normanville	
Northern Cooperative	
Norvic	
Patties Foods Pty Ltd	
Peel Valley	Yes
PPC Wholesale Food Service	Yes
Prime Valley Pastoral	
Primo abattoir	Yes
Primo Scone	Yes
QAF	
Radford	
Riverside Meats	
Rockdale	
Southern Meats	
Southern Queensland Exporters	
Stanbroke	Yes
Strath Meats	
Swickers	
Swift Australia Ltd	
Swift Australia (Southern)	
T&R Pastoral Company	
Tallowman	Yes
Tatiara	Yes
Teys Bros	Yes
Teys SA	
Thomas Borthwick and Sons	Yes
Toowoomba Foods	
Top Cut Food Industries	
V&V Walsh	
Western Meat Packers	
West Meats	
Wingham	Yes
Wodonga Rendering	Yes
RTOs	
AQIS	
Australian College of Training	
Axial Training	
Central West Community College	
Chisholm	
First Knight	

Company	Environment
MC Herd	
Metro Velda	
Midfield	Yes
Milton District Meats	
Moe Meat Packers	
Monbeef	Yes
Nippon Meat Packers	
Normanville	
Northern Cooperative	
Norvic	
Patties Foods Pty Ltd	
Peel Valley	Yes
PPC Wholesale Food Service	Yes
Prime Valley Pastoral	
Primo abattoir	Yes
Primo Scone	Yes
QAF	
Radford	
Riverside Meats	
Rockdale	
Southern Meats	
Southern Queensland Exporters	
Stanbroke	Yes
Strath Meats	
Swickers	
Swift Australia Ltd	
Swift Australia (Southern)	
T&R Pastoral Company	
Tallowman	Yes
Tatiara	Yes
Teys Bros	Yes
Teys SA	
Thomas Borthwick and Sons	Yes
Toowoomba Foods	
Top Cut Food Industries	
V&V Walsh	
Western Meat Packers	
West Meats	
Wingham	Yes
Wodonga Rendering	Yes
RTOs	
AQIS	
Australian College of Training	
Axial Training	
Central West Community College	
Chisholm	
First Knight	

Company	Environment
Great Southern Institute of TAFE	
Goulburn Ovens Institute	
Hunter TAFE	
Independent Institute of Food Processing	
JW Training and consulting	
Lismore Institute of TAFE	
Meat Industry Services	
Melbourne East Group Training	
North Coast Institute of TAFE	
PN Browne	
Response Learning	
Simmonds and Bristow	
Southern Edge Training	
South West Institute of TAFE (SA)	
South West Institute of TAFE (Vic)	
SQIT	Yes
Symbio Alliance	
TAFE NSW	
TAFE SA (Regency)	
TAFE Western Institute	Yes
Targeted Training	
Training Solutions Australia	
University Of Ballarat	
Other	
AMIC	Yes
AMPC	Yes
AUS-MEAT	
Australian Business Limited (AAC)	
Busy at Work Apprentices (AAC)	
Chrysalis Landscape consultants	Yes
City West Water (Vic)	Yes
Colley consulting	Yes
CSIRO	Yes
Curriculum Support Services (WA)	
Dept Ag (WA)	Yes
Dpt Health WA	
DPI Vic	
Ecowise Environmental	Yes
Eddie Andriessen	

Company	Environment
consulting	
EPA	Yes
Food Science Australia	Yes
Foss Pacific	
Golder Associates	Yes
ITT Water And Waste	Yes
Johns Environmental	Yes
Management for Technology	
Manufacturing Skills Qld (ITAB)	
MLA	Yes
PITAC NT	Yes
PrimeSafe	
Proand Ass	Yes
SAARDI	Yes
Sarino Russo Apprenticeship Services	
SAS Water Solutions	Yes
State Training Services (STA)	
3M Australia	
Victorian FTIB	
Western Power	Yes
WR Carpenters	

2.3 Attachment Three: Sample survey forms.

MINTRAC Environment Manager Networks

Evaluation 2008-9 – non-attendees

Question	Yes/no	Comment
1. Have you heard about the MINTRAC Environment Manager networks?		
2. Have you ever attended a environment Manager network meeting?		
3. What are your reasons for not attending now?		
4. What would need to change for you to attend these meetings?		
5. How do you access current information about environment and EPA requirements in the meat industry?		
6. Do you ever make contact with MINTRAC to seek assistance or information? If yes, please explain		
7. Do you have any other comments you wish to add about the Environment Manager's network?		

Your company: _____

Please fax this form to MINTRAC on 02 9819 6099, or email to jkroonstuiver@mintrac.com.au

MINTRAC Environment Manager Networks

Evaluation 2008-9 – for attendees

Question		✓	Comment
1. I attend Environment Manager Network meetings because..... (please tick as many as apply)	They keep me up to date on environment issues		
	I can get help with environment problems		
	I can provide advice about industry environment needs		
	I find out about new technologies		
	I like the networking opportunities		
	It's a day away from the plant		
	They improve my confidence in managing environment at my plant		
	I get good hints about EPA audits		
	I find out about funding available for environment		
	Other – please list		
2. Environment Manager Networks are important to the industry because.... (please tick as many as apply)	They are not important.		
	They provide a means of getting consistency in EPA assessments across the industry		
	They ensure that I am up-to-date with industry and EPA requirements.		
	They encourage networking between plants.		
	They are a way of finding out about MINTRAC programs and activities.		
	They are a means of ensuring MLA and AMIC receives accurate industry information about environment requirements		
	Other – please list		

Question		Comment			
3. Please comment on the organisation of the meetings	Pre-meeting information				
	Agendas				
	Minutes				
	Location				
	Start time				
	Finish time				
	Frequency				
	Chairmanship				
	Food/ beverages				
3. What would you like to see added/increased at TM network meetings?					
4. What would you like to see less of in the meeting?					
Question		✓	Comment		
5. How do you report back to your company after the TM	I don't: no-one at my company is really interested in what happens at the meetings.				
	I provide a summary to my				

meetings? (please tick as many as apply)	supervisor/manager		
	I brief other staff about matters discussed at the meetings.		
	I distribute the minutes.		
	I regularly bring up information from the meetings in informal conversations with other staff at the company.		
	Other – please list		
6. How do you rate the service provided by MINTRAC? (Please tick <i>one</i> and comment)	Excellent		
	Mostly OK.		
	Poor		
	Hopeless		