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AUSTRALIAN WATER SUMMIT

26-28 February 2003, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Darling Harbour, Sydney

Developing integrated policy initiatives for property rights, water trading, pricing and sustainable natural resource management

Examining:

- Structures for effective natural resource management
- New frameworks for property rights, entitlements and water trading
- How to internalise the costs of environmental repair through pricing methods
- Implementation of successful decision-making processes and sustainable water use practices
- Opportunities to harmonise state policies

"We must ensure we are all working together to achieve common goals which deliver realistic long term solutions for efficient water use, water infrastructure, salinity and other associated issues."

Hon Peter Beattie, MP, Queensland Premier and Minister for Trade, 2002

Hear leading presentations from:

- Hon John Aquilina, Minister for Land and Water Conservation, NSW
- Prof. Geoff McDonald, Sustainable Ecosystems, CSIRO
- Col Thomson, President, NSW Irrigators Council
- Neil Barr, Leader Rural Social Research, Natural Resources & Environment, Victoria
- Mike Young, Policy & Economic Research Unit, CSIRO
- Tim Fisher, Land & Water Coordinator, Australian Conservation Foundation
- Chris Bell, Director, Environment Protection Authority, Victoria
- Louise Rose, Project Manager, Murray-Darling Basin Commission
- Jim Hallion, Chief Executive, Department of Primary Industries & Resources, South Australia

Featuring brand new CASE STUDIES from:

- The Pilot Interstate Water Trading project
- The Burnett River Dam project

PLUS POST
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WORKSHOPS on
Pricing Strategies
and
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AUSTRALIAN WATER SUMMIT

26-28 February 2003, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Darling Harbour, Sydney

Dear Executive,

"At some point it [water] is going to require a national investment to restore the health of Australia's river systems, which are in serious trouble."
Finance Minister Nick Minchin, November 2002

Water is finally at the top of the political agenda, but Australia's rural communities are at crisis point and the need for coordinated action is greater than ever. The Australian Water Summit *brings together leading policy-makers in water management at a regional, state and national level.* It offers an open forum for informed discussion, which will provide you with the scientific knowledge and policy vision to create successful frameworks for water reform.

You can debate the issues with the leading minds in water reform from key organisations, including:

- CSIRO
- Murray-Darling Basin Commission
- Department of Natural Resources & Mines, Queensland
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Queensland Federation of Farmers
- Australian National Committee on Irrigation & Drainage
- NSW Irrigators Council
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry - Australia
- Environment Protection Authority - Victoria
- Department of Primary Industries & Resources, South Australia

The Australian Water Summit will be an influential three-day event. It will provide you with the *latest information on property rights, trading, pricing and natural resource management.* It aims to analyse and address these crucial issues and to provide policy frameworks for establishing an integrated natural resource management system across Australia. The progressive conference agenda allows you to reflect and refocus on the end goal - ***the sustainable management of water use to protect Australia's agricultural industries and her unique natural environment.***

Plus Case Studies from the Murray-Darling Basin Commission and the Burnett River Dam project

Register today by calling our registration hotline on **(02) 9923 5090** or fax your priority registration form to **(02) 9959 4684**, or book on the web at www.iir.com.au/government. Don't miss out on the \$300 early bird discount, if you book and pay before 10 December 2002.

Yours faithfully,



Hannah Pipe
Project Manager - Resources

PS: Don't miss the opening address from Hon John Aquilina, Minister for Land and Water Conservation, NSW

Generating solutions

Day One: Wednesday 26 February 2003

8.30 Registration and Coffee

9.00 **PLENARY ADDRESS - Future policy directions for water**
Hon John Aquilina, Minister for Land and Water Conservation, NSW

Policy

9.20 **Water today - where we stand now**

Ticky Fullerton, Reporter, ABC Four Corners, Author of 'Watershed'

9.45 **Water management - a new era of cooperation among states**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- Water trading interstate – future directions
- Ensuring sustainable environmental flows for the River Murray
- Encouraging water management by irrigators and creating a 'duty of care' to the River Murray
- Integrating legislation and meeting long-term funding requirements
- Collaboration between jurisdictions on water management of the Lake Eyre Basin

Jim Hallion, Chief Executive, Department of Primary Industries & Resources, South Australia

10.30 Morning Coffee

10.45 **Water reform in NSW - what went wrong and where to now?**

- Assessing the principles behind water reform
- Where we got to and what went wrong
- What can we learn from the NSW experience about water access rights, integrated resource management and community ownership?
- Moving forward from here. Where to now?

Col Thomson, President, NSW Irrigators Council

Property Rights

11.30 **Robust separation - a generic framework to simplify registration and trading of interests in natural resources**

- CoAG reform framework, benefits and limitations
- Determining the key elements of a robust system for property rights and trading
- Identifying definitions of interest
- Considerations for defining the entitlements system
- Assigning risk management theories and strategies to water markets
- Overcoming implementation issues

Mike Young, Director, Policy & Economic Research Unit, CSIRO

12.15 **Overcoming legal obstacles associated with property rights and registration of water entitlements**

- How to translate policy ideas into legally binding agreements
- Specification of access rights and property rights
- Addressing legalities when registering water entitlements
- Identifying and understanding the legal obstacles to interstate water trading

Dr Jennifer McKay, Water Policy and Law, University of South Australia

1.00 Lunch

Water Trading

2.15 **Improving Australian water management practices through the expansion of water trading. The Murray-Darling Basin Interstate Pilot Trading project**

- CASE STUDY
- Will water trading promote better water management?
 - Strategies to encourage water efficiency through a water trading framework
 - Identifying the benefits of trading to the highest value user and what does this mean?
 - How will water trading benefit farmers and shape the farming industry in Australia?
 - Setting environmental standards and accountability with in a system of water trading
 - Developing frameworks for interstate cooperation
- Louise Rose, Project Manager, Pilot Interstate Water Trading Project, Murray-Darling Basin Commission**

3.00 **Establishing a framework for water trading**

- Developing a framework and infrastructure for permanent and temporary trades
- Agreeing an exchange rate system for water licenses
- Promoting inter-state cooperation
- Effective communication strategies between Catchment Management Organisations

Dr John Marsden, Principal, Marsden Jacob Associates, Melbourne, Victoria

3.45 Afternoon Tea

Targeting Policy

4.00 **Irrigation communities of the future: evolution or revolution?**

- How are irrigation communities changing?
- Why is change in water management and use so slow when water trading has been around for some time?
- How quickly can water policy be transformed? When will the transition costs become unacceptable?
- If we adopt some radical policies for water, what might the future rural Australia look like?

Neil Barr, Leader Rural Social Research, CRC for Plant-Based Management of Dryland Salinity, Department of Natural Resources & Environment, Victoria

4.45 **Rivers and Irrigation Communities: Balancing the ledger**

- The costs of change: who bears those costs and how do we decide?
- Reflecting structural changes in Australian agriculture in future water management policy
- Diversification of rural economies – what this might mean for water consumption and rural water policies?

Facilitator:

Ticky Fullerton, Reporter, ABC Four Corners

Panel Participants:

Neil Barr, Leader Rural Social Research, Natural Resources & Environment, Victoria

Ian Johnson, President, Queensland Federation of Farmers

Mike Young, Director, Policy & Economic Research Unit, CSIRO

Tim Fisher, Land & Water Coordinator, Australian Conservation Foundation

5.30 Closing remarks from the Chair

5.45 Close of Day One and Conference Cocktails

7.30 Conference Dinner

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ions for sustainable

Day Two: Thursday 27 February 2003

9.00 Opening remarks from the Chair

Fiona Wain, *Chief Executive Officer, Environment Business Australia*

Challenges for Markets

9.15 Analysing the challenges created by establishing water markets

- Evaluating localised impacts in a broad market
- Understanding the impacts of caps and loads and how they are affected by the changing seasons
- Regulating the market for water reform, why is this necessary?
- Managing outcomes for water policy

Chris Bell, *Director, Environment Protection Authority, Victoria*

Pricing

10.00 Effectively using price to reflect the "real costs" of water

- Methods to link water conservation and price
- Internalising the costs of environmental reforms
- Accounting for costs of new water infrastructure as well as on-going maintenance

Jim Binney, *Director Catchment Economics, Department of Natural Resources & Mines, Queensland*

10.45 Morning Coffee

11.00 Burnett River Dam - pricing for new water infrastructure projects

- Role of pricing for new projects
- Understanding irrigator willingness- and ability-to-pay
- Institutional aspects: managing the "old water"/"new water" divide

Craig Fenton, *Director Economics & Markets, PricewaterhouseCoopers*

CASE STUDY

Integrating Natural Resource Management

11.45 Integrating natural resource management systems for better environmental outcomes

- Developing an effective system of planning
- Linking scientific tools and research institutions
- Investing in people capacity and strengthening local groups/organisations
- Building a basis for negotiating critical issues
- Capitalising on the existing knowledge base and generating effective communication tools
- Creating effective and inclusive policy options, which account for social, environmental and economic impacts

Prof. Geoff McDonald, *Sustainable Ecosystems, CSIRO*

12.30 Lunch

Sustainable Water Management

1.45 Managing environmental flows for healthy river systems

- Setting sustainable flow requirements (seasonality, volumes, timing, duration and amplitude) for maintaining river and floodplain health
- Improving flow management at reservoirs, dams and other structures
- Understanding the links between water quality and flow
- Developing flow regimes for improving the management of cold water pollution

- Improving institutional arrangements for the management of environmental flow allocations

- Ensuring availability for different users in different states

Tim Fisher, *Land & Water Coordinator, Australian Conservation Foundation*

2.30 Allocation of groundwater and surface water – one resource or two?

- How do we know how much water there is?
- Relationship between surface water and groundwater
- Accounting for interception, stormwater, overland flows and other sources?
- Regulation and monitoring
- Security and adaptive management
- How do we prevent over-allocation?
- Is there potential for the development of new water resources?

Leslie Russell, *Policy Officer, Natural Resource Management, Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry - Australia*

3.15 Afternoon Tea

3.30 Improving irrigation techniques and infrastructure to promote efficient water use

- Matching land capability with correct crops and correct irrigation techniques
- Progress made over the past 20 years in dairy, horticulture, viticulture and rice in efficient water use
- Management options vs. engineering options to use water more efficiently
- Equipping policy-makers with the right science for the best decisions
- Understanding the costs involved and targeting highest value areas

Stephen Mills, *Chairman, Australian National Committee on Irrigation & Drainage*

Implementing Policy

4.15 Implementing sustainable practices and effective decision-making processes from the Commonwealth government to the farm

- Broadening strategies of successful decision-making processes from Commonwealth to state
- Fostering 'ownership' of the problems and solutions for water management, successfully engaging farmers
- Targeting improvements that generate the greatest benefits for all stakeholders
- Improving communications processes and dispersal of scientific knowledge on sustainable farming practices

Facilitator:

Fiona Wain, *Chief Executive Officer, Environment Business Australia*

Panel Participants:

Prof. Geoff McDonald, *Sustainable Ecosystems, CSIRO*
Tim Fisher, *Land & Water Coordinator, Australian Conservation Foundation*

Ian Johnson, *President, Queensland Federation of Farmers*

Stephen Mills, *Chairman, Australian National Committee on Irrigation & Drainage*

5.15 Closing remarks from the Chair

5.30 Close of conference

PANEL SESSION

POST CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Post Conference Workshop One

Friday 28 February 2003, 9am-12noon

Developing Pricing Strategies for New Water Service Products

Workshop Leader

Ross Chapman, Director, Centre for International Economics, Sydney

Workshop Overview

- Pricing "security" and other characteristics of new water service products
- The relationship between pricing, water trading and development of new irrigation methods and areas
- Pricing and internalisation of environmental effects

The workshop will help participants:

- Assess the modelling and practical requirements for pricing the attributes of possible new water service products required by users of improved irrigation methods;
- Analyse the links between customers' willingness to pay for water service attributes and investment in new and replacement infrastructure;
- Develop pricing principles for pricing large volume urban waste-water for irrigation purposes.

Participants will be introduced to choice modelling techniques currently being applied to assess willingness to pay for other utility services and will explore the suitability of these to pricing farm water services. Water 'security' and water 'quality' will be examined as dimensions for pricing. The workshop will investigate how the extension of water saving infrastructure and irrigation methods might interact with the way in which water delivery is priced.

About your Workshop Leader

Ross Chapman is a Director at the Centre for International Economics. He was born and educated in Australia and undertook post-graduate studies in England. He joined the Centre in 1995, helping to establish the Sydney office after a 25-year academic career in the UK, Canada and the University of New South Wales. Ross was one of the Commissioners on the national inquiry into water conducted by the then Industry Commission in 1991-92. He has been a consultant to water pricing regulators and to water service providers in NSW, Queensland and South Australia. Ross's interests lie in the application of economic techniques to:

- industrial organisation questions with a special emphasis on utility pricing, price regulation and investment issues – his Australian and international publications have spanned the areas of pricing and demand uncertainty, takeovers, price regulation and utility privatisation, and firm profitability and investment;
- the interface between industry policy and environmental policy and the use by government of market based instruments to address issues like efficient water use, salinity control and urban wastes;
- project analysis including appraisal to the economic benefits of major infrastructure projects and government investment in non-market ventures; and
- competition policy and regulatory reform in Australia and developing countries.

Post Conference Workshop Two

Friday 28 February 2003, 2pm-5pm

Developing Effective Community Consultation and Participation Practices

Workshop Leader

Jim Cavaye PhD, Director, Cavaye Community Development and Adjunct Associate Professor at the Institute for Sustainable Regional Development (CQU)

Workshop Overview

Establishing effective community consultation practices is crucial to water management in Australia. Local participation in the policy-making processes encourages ownership of both problems and solutions. This workshop focuses on the practical processes for effective community engagement. It will cover the issues surrounding community consultation on water management and develop practical steps for improved community involvement.

The workshop will include:

- A brief review of community consultation on water issues
- Understanding issues involved in community consultation
- How to incorporate all the elements of effective community engagement
- Developing the practical steps for improved engagement and participation
- Investigating alternative methods of community consultation

About your Workshop Leader



Jim Cavaye is an accomplished practitioner, educator and researcher in community development with 20 years experience working with rural and regional communities. He is the Director of Cavaye Community Development and works with a wide range of communities, organisations and government agencies across Australia. He has a PhD from the United States in community development and is an

international speaker and author. He has assisted many local communities as well as contributing to a range of major regional development initiatives. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Institute for Sustainable Regional Development (CQU) and at the Community Service and Research Centre (UQ).

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS EVENT

Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), Presidents, Chairpersons, Director Generals, Executive Directors, Managing Directors, Senior Policy Advisers, General Managers, Regional Managers in Commonwealth, State and Regional Government, Farmers' Organisations, Environmental Bodies, Rural Bankers, Property Lawyers and Consultants

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