

SALINITY SCIENCE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SALINITY POLICY AND MANAGEMENT IN AUSTRALIA: A 2008 UP-DATE

A workshop for policy advisors and NRM decision makers

A half-day workshop on the latest salinity science and its implications for salinity management and policy will be held on Wednesday 2nd of April. This workshop is incorporated within the 2nd International Salinity Forum Conference being held at the Adelaide Convention Centre (31st March-3rd April). This workshop provides an opportunity to assess whether advances in salinity science have any implications for new salinity investment frameworks.

The workshop is designed to provide a high level briefing to policy advisors and NRM decision makers, and to engender discussion on the implications of this science for salinity management and policy decisions going forward. The workshop will be open session, however participants will need to register in advance with the 2nd ISF Conference to participate. Those not already registered are required to pay the one-day registration fee. Each short presentation (10 mins) will be followed by a facilitated panel discussion to begin to assess whether there are significant changes to the science that might have implications for policy investments (10 mins). There will also be a facilitated panel discussion on future directions to close the workshop.

Program

- 08:45- 09:05 John Talbot (DAFF) with Richard Price (Kiri-ganai Research) to facilitate: *Welcome and introduction: the existing policy framework and the existing guiding principles for new investment frameworks* (10 mins); and panel discussion driven from a policy perspective (10 mins)
- 09:05- 09:25 Dr Richard George (Ag WA): *The extent of salinity in Australia: a 2008 up-date* (10 mins); and panel discussion driven from a policy perspective (10 mins)
- 09:25- 09:45 Dr Glen Walker (CSIRO WfHC): *Salinity processes and models in Australia: how has our knowledge advanced in the last 10 years? Do we have a good handle on salinity dynamics and water and salt balance?* (10 mins); and panel discussion (10 mins)
- 09:45- 10:05 Dr Tom Hatton (CSIRO WfHC): *What effects will longer term climate change have on salinity? Has the 10 year drought taught us any lessons? How does salinity fit in the mix of multiple environmental threats?* (10 mins); and panel discussion (10 mins)
- 10:05- 10:25 Mr Greg Holland (MDBC): *The current policy status of salinity management in the Basin* (10 mins); & panel discussion (10 mins)

10:25- 10:40 Morning tea break

- 10:40- 11:00 Dr Ken Lawrie (Geoscience Australia/CRC LEME): *How can recent advances in salinity mapping and assessment methods contribute to the net benefits of salinity management?* (10 mins); and panel discussion (10 mins)
- 11:00- 11:20 Mr Peter Baker (BRS): *Challenges for salinity policy to maintain Australia's natural resource assets* (10 mins); and panel discussion (10 mins)
- 11:20- 11:40 Mr Kevin Goss (Future Farm Industries CRC): *Developments in plant-based salinity management and farming systems options* (10 mins); & panel discussion (10 mins)
- 11:40- 11:50 Mr Matt Kendall (NWC): *Implications of National Water Initiative reforms for salinity managers - overallocation, interception, water trading and integrated management of connected surface & groundwater systems* (10 mins); and panel discussion (10 mins)
- 12:00- 12:30 *Future Directions* - questions from policy advisors- What are the key questions going forward? (Facilitation by Richard Price)

Lunch

This workshop is organised and supported by the Geological Society of Australia's Environment, Engineering and Hydrogeology Specialist Group, and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) Commission on Geosciences for Environmental Management (GEM) International Working Group on Communicating Environmental Geoscience.