

Environmental Flows Workshop

17 February 2010

Main Lecture Theatre, Building 6 | La Trobe University, Albury-Wodonga campus



Environmental flows consistently represent a small fraction of annual discharge. This combined with system capacity constraints mean that even when the full environmental allocation is available, difficult decisions need to be made about which assets will receive water. One response to this has been to identify High Conservation Aquatic Ecosystems within the larger floodplain system and allocate water to those assets. While this strategy provides a prioritised list of assets, difficult decisions are still required that would, in an ideal world, consider issues such as:

- The ecological outcomes expected from the watering event
- Potential risks resulting from the watering event
- The way water should be allocated to optimise outcomes
- The trade-offs among environmental values imbedded in water delivery decisions
- The opportunities for multiple uses of water
- The implications that the current decision has on future watering decisions
- The risks associated with the decision not to water assets that is associated with every decision to water

While these considerations are entirely environmental, a recent survey of wetland managers revealed that watering decisions are often heavily influenced by the availability of water and the capacity to deliver water to particular assets. Given the increased scrutiny of environmental water allocations, it will be important that decisions are both transparent and defensible.

The workshop will explore the ways in which decisions are made about environmental watering with the aim of identifying the strengths and risks associated with various approaches and identifying the institutional/communication and knowledge requirements for effective decisions in a complex and unpredictable environment.

Please register at:

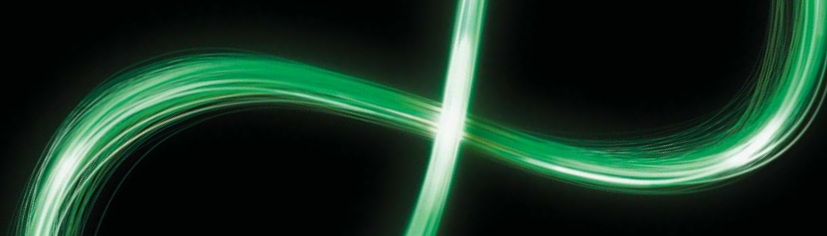
latrobe.edu.au/aw/events/seminars-and-forums/water-forum

Venue

La Trobe University
Main Lecture Theatre
Building 6
Albury-Wodonga campus
University Drive Wodonga

Enquiries

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Draft Program

Time	Speaker	Affiliation
10:00 AM	CHALLENGES FACING EXISTING PROGRAMS	
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Judy Goode	<i>South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board</i>
10:30 am -11:00 am	Mike Maher	<i>Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, NSW</i>
11:00 am - 11:30 am	Open Discussion	
11:30 am - 11:45 am Morning tea		
11:45 AM	DECISIONS AND CRITERIA	
11:45 am - 12:15 pm	Peter Davies	<i>Freshwater Systems, Tasmania</i>
12:15 pm -12:45 pm	TBA	
12:45 pm - 1:15 pm	Open Discussion	
1:15 pm -2:00 pm Lunch		
2:00 PM	BASIN CHALLENGES	
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Ian Robinson	<i>Commonwealth Water Holder</i>
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Barry Hart	<i>Murray-Darling Basin Authority</i>
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Open Discussion	