

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

research to industry and students. The White Paper on research training offers some good initiatives that should help improve research training, but fails to provide the additional funds so desperately needed to replace ageing infrastructure, retain and attract top quality staff and make postgraduate work attractive to students. As the World becomes an ever more competitive information society this dumbing down of Australia is inexplicable and dangerous. It is even more puzzling when one realises that so many other countries with which we compete are dramatically increasing their investment in science and research.

The Centre continues to be an exciting and vibrant organisation, committed to making a difference. This comes about because of the energy, enthusiasm and talent of the staff and graduate students who have a commitment to collaborative research that can be used by the water industry. The good will of so many people has been critical in getting us through this start-up phase.

Special thanks must go to our Board and in particular our Chairman, Dr John Langford. Dr Langford has not only led the Board with distinction, but provided much wise counsel to me as Chief Executive. Board members have been able to provide wise and effective governance for the Centre as an organisation committed to improving the waterways of Australia.

Professor Peter Cullen
Chief Executive





The management of the Cooperative Research Centre for Freshwater Ecology is designed to maximise the strengths of its member organisations. It does this by facilitating collaboration between staff across sites and research programs, and emphasising education, communication and knowledge exchange.

1.1 Membership of the CRC for Freshwater Ecology

The Cooperative Research Centre for Freshwater Ecology (CRCFE) was formally established in July 1993 under the Commonwealth Government's CRC Program. In 1999, the CRC successfully applied for a further 7 years of funding. It is an unincorporated joint venture between:

ACTEW Corporation
CSIRO Land and Water
Department of Land and Water Conservation, New South Wales
Department of Natural Resources, Queensland
Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria
Environment ACT
Environment Protection Authority, New South Wales
Environment Protection Authority, Victoria
Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Authority
Griffith University
La Trobe University
Lower Murray Water
Melbourne Water
Monash University
Murray-Darling Basin Commission
Sydney Catchment Authority
Sunraysia Rural Water Authority
University of Canberra

1.2 The Board

The CRCFE is governed by a Board comprising the following members at June 30, 2000:

Dr Colin Adrian, Executive Director, Environment ACT
Mr Don Blackmore, Chief Executive, Murray-Darling Basin Commission
Mr Greg Claydon, Department of Natural Resources, Qld
Mr Bruce Cooper, Director, Ecosystem Management Branch, Department of Land and Water Conservation, NSW
Professor Allan Cripps, Dean of Applied Science, University of Canberra
Professor Peter Cullen, (Chief Executive), Professor of Resource and Environmental Science, University of Canberra
Professor Ron Davies, Dean of Science until meeting 3/99, Prof Peter Darvall, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research & Development from meeting 1/00, Monash University
Mr Ron Dennis, Chief Executive, Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation
Dr Jane Doolan, Waterways Unit, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, VIC
Dr Graham Harris, Chief, CSIRO Land and Water
Professor Bill Hogarth, Dean of Environmental Sciences, Griffith University
Dr John Langford, (Chairman), Executive Director, Water Services Association of Australia
Professor Nancy Millis, University of Melbourne
Mr Jeff Wright, Chief Executive Officer, Sydney Catchment Authority
Mr Ross Young, General Manager, Waterways and Drainage, Melbourne Water



STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

Table 1.1 Attendance at Board meetings

	10 Sept 99	18 Nov 99	3 Mar 00	23 May 00
Dr John Langford	•	•	•	•
Prof. Peter Cullen	•	•	•	•
Dr Colin Adrian	•	•		
Mr Peter Burnett			•	•
Mr Don Blackmore	•	•		•
Mr Kevin Goss			•	
Mr Greg Claydon	•		•	•
Mr David Freebairn		•		
Mr Bruce Cooper	•		•	•
Prof. Allan Cripps				•
Dr George Cho	•			
Ms Anne McMahon		•	•	
Prof. Ron Davies	•			
Professor Grahame Coleman		•		
Professor Peter Darvall			•	•
Mr Ron Dennis	•	•	•	•
Dr Jane Doolan	•	•	•	•
Dr Graham Harris			•	•
Dr John Williams		•		
Prof. Bill Hogarth		•	•	•
Prof. Roger Kitching	•			
Prof. Nancy Millis	•	•	•	•
Mr Jeff Wright				
Mr Alan Dodds	•	•		
Mr Tony Paull			•	
Mr Paul Shannahan				•
Mr Ross Young		•	•	•
Mr Kevin Wood	•			

*Goulburn, NSW.
Photo: A Mostead*



STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

1.3 Organisational Structure

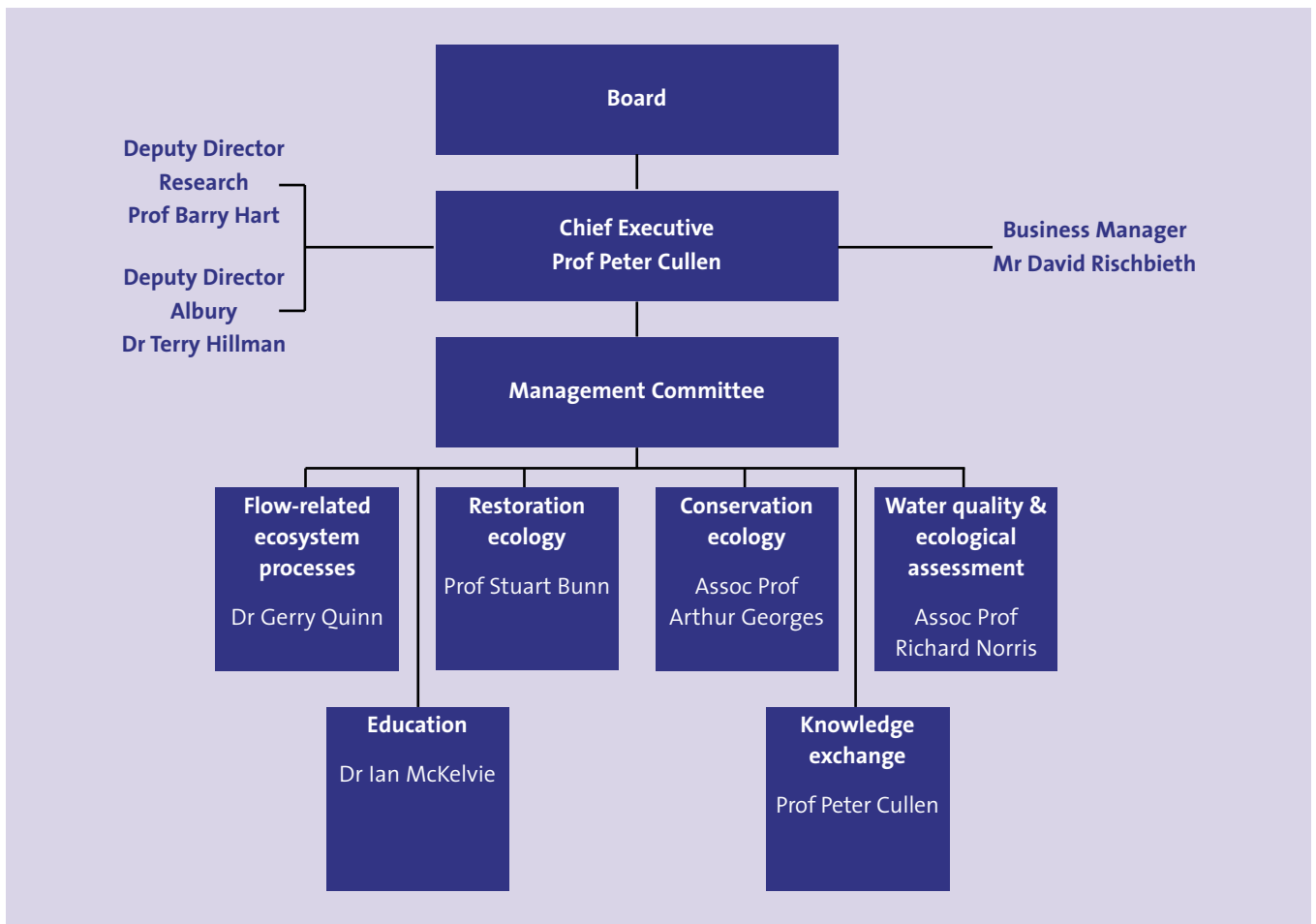
The Chief Executive, Professor Peter Cullen, carries executive responsibility for managing the Centre within the policy framework established by the Board. Two deputies support him - Professor Barry Hart is responsible for coordinating and implementing the research program. The second Deputy Director, Dr Terry Hillman, is responsible for managing the three regional laboratories: the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre at Albury, the Lower Basin Laboratory at Mildura and the Northern Laboratory at Goondiwindi.

The Chief Executive, Deputy Directors and Business Manager form the centre's Executive Committee.



Deputy Directors of the CRCFE,
Prof Barry Hart (left) and Dr Terry Hillman
Photos: K Markwort

Figure 1.2 Organisational Structure



The New Northern Laboratory

The CRC for Freshwater Ecology has established the Northern Laboratory of the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre in Goondiwindi, Queensland. It will compliment the activities of the other two MDFRC labs in Albury and Mildura. The Northern Laboratory will be a focal point for some of the developing research issues for the CRCFE. A Community Advisory Committee, chaired by Leith Bouilly, has been established and Glenn Wilson has been appointed as the research scientist in charge.

1.4 The Centre's Programs

The Centre's six programs consist of four research programs and an Education and Knowledge Exchange program:

- A. Flow-related ecological processes
- B. Restoration Ecology
- C. Conservation Ecology
- D. Water quality and ecological assessment
- E. Education
- F. Knowledge Exchange

1.5 Program Advisory Committees

Program Advisory Committees (PACs) have been established for each research program to strengthen the links between industry needs and the Centre's research programs. The four PACs have met and reported to the Board:



Di Flett
Executive Officer

Program A Advisory Committee, Flow Related Ecosystem Processes

Dr Gerry Quinn	CRCFE Program Leader
Dr Jane Doolan	DNRE
Mr Tony Paull	SCA
Mr Greg Raisin	DLWC
Mr Brian Wilkinson	Environment ACT

Program B Advisory Committee, Restoration Ecology

Prof Stuart Bunn	CRCFE Program Leader
Mr Peter Donnelly	Environment ACT
Dr Jane Doolan	DNRE
Mr Noel Kesby	DLWC
Ms Kate Lenertz	SCA
Mr Scott Seymour	MW

Program C Advisory Committee, Conservation Ecology

Assoc Prof Arthur Georges	CRCFE Program Leader
Mr Neal Forster	DLWC
Ms Mary Knowles	SCA
Mr Bill Logan	Environment ACT
Ms Julia Reed	DNRE



Program D Advisory Committee, Water Quality and Ecological Assessment

Assoc Prof Richard Norris	CRCFE Program Leader
Mr Bruce Cooper	DLWC
Mr Amir Deen	SCA
Ms Lisa Dixon	EPA
Mr Bob Neil	Environment ACT
Ms Peter Thompson	DNR

1.6 Working groups

Taxonomic Steering Group

The role of this committee is to coordinate and promote taxonomic activities within the CRCFE Membership:

Dr Richard Marchant, Museum of Victoria (Chair)

Mr John Hawking, MDFRC

Ms Alena Glaister, Monash University

Assoc Prof Richard Norris, University of Canberra

The group organised the 12th annual taxonomic workshop at the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre (8th & 9th Feb 2000) and presented 6 new identification guides. One of the major outcomes of the workshop was to identify knowledge gaps, helping to direct future taxonomic work of the Centre.

1.7 First Year Pastoral Visit

The First Year Visit to the CRC for Freshwater Ecology was held at the University of Canberra on 2 March 2000 by a visiting panel consisting of:

Chair	Prof Graeme Kelleher
CRC Visitor	Dr Barbara Bowles
Secretariat Support	Mr Vic Lawrentin

The Centre was represented by the

Chairman of the Board	Dr John Langford
CEO	Professor Peter Cullen
Business Manager	Mr David Rischbieth
Director of Research	Professor Barry Hart
Director of Regional Laboratories	Dr Terry Hillman
Chief Ecologist	Professor Sam Lake
Executive Officer	Ms Dianne Flett



*Mr David Rischbieth
Business Manager*

The Centre received a very favourable report. The report stated that “The Centre is applying directly the experience and knowledge gained by its predecessor, it is already clearly focusing on and achieving all the ‘evaluation criteria’.

This glowing report stands us in good stead for the first of our Centre reviews, expected to occur between years 2 and 3.