

Regional Advisory Panel – South Australia Terms of Reference

Background

The CRC for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC) is an Australian research centre that brings together interdisciplinary research expertise and thought-leadership to revolutionise urban water management in Australia and overseas. Our vision is sustainable, resilient and liveable water sensitive cities. The CRCWSC operates in collaboration with over 70 research, industry and government partner organisations. Many of these are located in South Australia, and there is a research hub located at Monash University.

The CRCWSC Executive is responsible for managing all the activities undertaken by the CRCWSC. The Executive includes the Regional Executive Director for the Southern Region (Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania). The establishment of the Regional Advisory Panel – South Australia stems from the need to develop and coordinate a range of CRCWSC regional activities in the state.

Purpose

The Regional Advisory Panel – South Australia is responsible for providing strategic advice to the Regional Executive Director to ensure that the regional activities program for South Australia addresses issues that are relevant to South Australian participants. The members of the panel will promote the regional activities to members of their organisation and professional network.

Role

The Regional Advisory Panel – South Australia will:

- draft a common vision for CRCWSC activities in South Australia;
- promote the inclusive involvement of all South Australian partners;
- build strong relationships between partner organisations to facilitate collaboration beyond the currently active projects and funding; and
- collaborate across disciplines and levels (from researchers to knowledge-users, and officer to executive level staff) to assist in the delivery of the CRCWSC's research and adoption programs.

An annual program of activities will be developed and advertised in South Australia at the start of each financial year. In developing the 2014-15 program the activities listed in Attachment 1 should be considered.

Membership

The membership for the Regional Advisory Panel – South Australia for 2014-15 is open to all South Australian industry partners for the CRCWSC. A CRCWSC Board member will attend on request. Each South Australian participant organisation will be invited to nominate one representative to sit on the panel.

A chair for the Panel will be drawn from the panel membership, and rotated annually.

Non-member organisations, such as stakeholders with a shared interest in urban water research and management, may be invited to attend on occasion as appropriate and at the discretion of the Panel.

Meeting frequency and process

The panel will meet at least four times per year. The CRCWSC will provide logistical and secretariat support to the panel and arrange the development and distribution of agenda papers, meeting minutes and reports in consultation with Chair. See Attachment 1 for a list of suggested agenda items.

Review process

The panel will review its operations against these Terms of Reference annually.

Attachment 1 – Proposed activities for 2014-15

Regional CRCWSC activities should:

- be driven by the needs of South Australian participants, taking into account the different needs of each organisation;
- be focused on research synthesis and communication;
- provide a networking opportunity for local participants; and
- be in line with the overall vision of the CRCWSC.

Proposed initiatives

1. Water sensitive cities seminar series:

The seminar series will feature presentations from guest speakers recruited from CRCWSC participants (industry partners and researchers). The focus of the series will be to:

- translate CRCWSC research;
- build the local context for the research; and
- develop a regional understanding of how projects are relevant to local industry challenges.

2. Targeted workshop series

Topic based workshops may be organised around specific areas of interest identified by CRCWSC partners. The aim is to engage the CRCWSC participants or a subgroup around a specific project or theme of importance, and to generate research synthesis outputs that will form part of the 'Ideas' series of research synthesis publications.

3. Facilitated participation of CRCWSC leadership team in key regional forums and influential committees

It is critical that the CRCWSC engage with relevant and influential forums (local chambers of commerce, professional bodies and interest groups) to promote the implementation of water sensitive cities culture.

4. Post-Industry Partners Workshop seminar series

Industry partners will present or discuss highlights of the biannual Industry Partners Workshops for partners in South Australia who were unable to attend.

5. Research project briefings for the Regional Advisory Panel – South Australia

Research project briefings will allow the representatives of the Regional Advisory Panel – South Australia to understand and provide feedback on research adoption opportunities arising from specific CRCWSC projects or programs.

6. Identifying local demonstration and case study projects

The Regional Advisory Panel – South Australia may identify demonstration or case study projects.