

Botany Bay Forum

University of NSW – Afternoon Session (cont'd)

Workshop Group – State Agencies - Speaker: Neil ? (cont'd)

polluted waterways, such as the Cooks River, where there is really, I suppose, no identified polluter. We can't actually get someone to fund it. It's all of our problem and responsibility. The legacy in those areas is known to be a major problem, but it's often considered as being too difficult. There's a need for innovative funding approaches to that. With a lot of development occurring in former industrial areas, the beneficiaries of cleaning up these areas are often the people who will move into these developments. Funding may be allied to that.

Another area is the distribution of contaminants over the catchment and capturing all that information and making sure that is integrated and incorporated into something such as a GIS system, and the reason that needs to be a priority is there's a need to archive and benchmark all that information from the various sources, such as councils, libraries, aerial photos, government departments, registers, to include surface and groundwater contaminants. It means that that information is there for all parties who have a particular interest and can apply it to their particular research needs.

The final one is a bit of a recurrent theme, which is an integrated modelling system that captures things such as the industrial pollutants and so on, catchment run off, water quality modelling, groundwater model, the Botany Bay hydrodynamic sediment water quality model. They all need to be linked. There needs to be something that is applied, such as in the Chesapeake system, that can be applied for consideration, for instance, by planners, if they've got a housing release, they can actually slot that into the model, what this release of land will do in terms of quantity and quality feeding into the system - into Botany Bay - and the impacts.

Organiser: Ronnie Harding

I'll pass over to John, but first, please all the facilitators remember to put your name on the little sheets and the butcher's paper and give us those. John, I think, will have a rich mix of not only research suggestions, but also wants and you're going to tell them all about what happens next.

Speaker - John Black

Let me start by acknowledging DIPNR's contribution to this workshop, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources and the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre who generously advertised our program and attracted so many of you here today. That's important to acknowledge and, in absentia, my colleague Alberto, who's had to go to another meeting, I want to thank him. He did all the work putting this program together, and he should be acknowledged. And I'd also like to thank very much all of the facilitators that we've heard from - the workshop facilitators who've done a terrific job. I sat and listened and the logic and clarity greatly impressed me. We'll come back to that in a minute. And I'd also like to thank Bruce Thom for chairing the session, Ronnie Harding through her work on facilitating the workshops and Michael Johnson who chaired a session as well. But the most important thanks and their sincere thanks and, in fact, their passionate thanks, goes to everyone in the room now and those who have had to leave early, generously giving up of their time and contributing so much. Thank you everyone and give a loud clap, especially for those who are not here, so they can hear it. So, congratulate yourself, please.

It's very much your input that I'm going to be using. So, what are the next steps? From the butcher's papers, from the summary of the research priorities, I've given an undertaking at the beginning, and I'll give an undertaking now, that I will produce a draft report and it will only be a draft report on the proceedings because, sadly, I'm limited in terms of what I hear and what I interpret and sometimes people's handwriting might be a bit tricky. But I'm going to attempt to put up on behalf of Botany Bay Studies Unit, and it will be up on our website, a draft of today's proceedings and what the recommendations and conclusions are. All of you would know that there've been many many research studies, recommendations and nothing's happened. I'm determined, to the best I can, to make something happen, and the starting point is to have that draft report. I will complete it within four weeks and I hope to do it earlier. You're all, or most of you, I'm sure, are on the email - we've got your email contacts. I will be emailing you a draft and your job then is to get back to me and add additional comments or encourage other colleagues to have a look and put their views back to me.

Those two or three weeks might be too long. Maybe you feel a bit frustrated you haven't got your own view or ideas over. Then email me as soon as you can. Just email me your ideas as I'm crafting that report. I'd be delighted to hear from you. So don't feel frustrated that you haven't had a chance to have your full say, please email me. I'm going to leave my business card on the table. It's very simple. It should be on some of the papers. It's just j.black@unsw.edu.au. That feedback process eventually will produce a final report that again will be posted on our website and I think it will go across to the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre, their website as well, and we're planning on cross-linking with our websites. Our Botany Bay Studies Unit website - very very simple - just four letters www.bbsu.unsw.edu.au. You'll find all the information on the workshop, all our contacts, our details as well.

Beyond that it's my job to try and facilitate research studies actually happening to go and attract research funding. Many of you in the audience maybe know of sources of research funding, have ideas of what needs to be done, can contribute, because it's not only research funding to pay the researchers, but there's also research in kind that's important - information, data sources, access to people and so forth. You can all continue to play a great part in that process. The aim, then, of the Botany Bay Studies Unit is to go out and start attracting research funding. People have already said to me today, I'll come out for a meeting, and I've already planned a program. That's what I'll be doing over the next couple of months. If you've got any bright ideas, please contact me.

The critical thing is, if you feel frustrated, you want to get information over in the next couple of days, email me directly. You will receive the draft of this workshop. I do apologise beforehand, because I've done this on a government forum before - my interpretation is always going to be limited and weak and there's going to be gaps. Please help fill that out, if there's anything you want to contribute, and then we'll get a final workshop report out.

In terms of the next steps, Bruce Thom, would you just mind saying a few words, and you have up to five minutes.

Speaker: Bruce Thom

(Inaudible - Spoke from the back of the room and did not speak into the microphone)

End of Afternoon Session

End of Forum