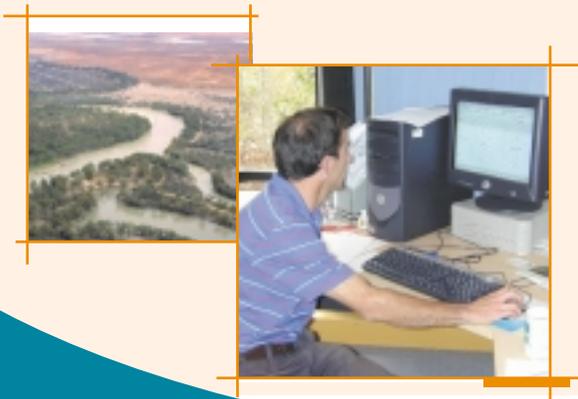


KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE IN THE CRC FOR FRESHWATER ECOLOGY

- Knowledge brokers listen to the needs of stakeholders, and therefore can advise researchers who are choosing the scope of relevant research projects.
- Knowledge brokers run workshops for problem solving or training.
- Our knowledge brokers coordinate Expert Panels — groups of experts brought together to discuss and provide an expert solution to a water management situation.
- Our knowledge-exchange products include targeted talks and face-to-face briefings.
- To reach a wider management and community audience, the knowledge exchange team also produces software, reports, brochures, booklets and articles in appropriate print media.
- Our knowledge brokers manage consultancies, linking stakeholders who want a problem solved and the researchers who can help solve it.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For further information about the knowledge exchange concept, as practised in the CRC for Freshwater Ecology, please contact:

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COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR
FRESHWATER ECOLOGY



Linking researchers
and stakeholders



*The Cooperative Research Centre
for Freshwater Ecology develops
ecological understanding to improve
and protect Australia's inland waters*



MERGING INFORMATION FROM SEVERAL SOURCES

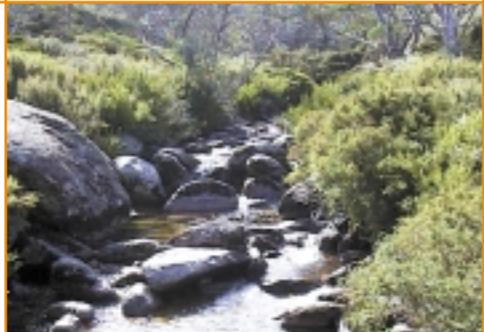
The challenge for Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs), especially those with a strong 'public good' focus, is to share knowledge with the right audience in as useful a format as possible.

CRCs bring together groups in disparate organisations with the aim of cooperation for a common goal. One important goal is to produce knowledge for particular audiences and purposes.

However, while research groups in the various partner organisations generate new additions to knowledge, often these additions are only *part* of the overall progress towards the goal. Other new and existing knowledge needs to be considered in achieving the goal.

The target audience needs the various parts *combined*, to suit its needs.

In the CRC for Freshwater Ecology (CRCFE), this is where 'knowledge exchange' and 'knowledge brokering' come in.



KNOWLEDGE BROKERS

Knowledge brokers are the people who practise knowledge exchange. In the CRCFE, they link science to management outcomes and community needs. To do so they need to collect and deliver information from several sources.

First they listen to stakeholders — managers and the community — and help pinpoint the particular issues that need to be addressed or the problems that need to be solved. Then they assemble and review the available information, potentially identifying new knowledge in the process, and communicate it to the stakeholders.

The knowledge brokers work with our scientists to obtain a whole-of-CRCFE scientific view on a problem. This may involve analysing and integrating the required knowledge from a number of research projects, to address the stakeholders' needs. Sometimes, new knowledge gaps are found, which lead to new research.

Knowledge brokers in the CRCFE are often at the leading edge of applying new knowledge to solve water management issues.

Knowledge brokering is not the same as science communication. Our knowledge brokers work with specific, as well as general, audiences and tailor information to particular needs. In our CRC, knowledge brokers have postgraduate scientific research training and also communications experience.

WHY BROKER KNOWLEDGE?

The knowledge brokering concept arose because it has been observed that members of the community, including resource managers, tend to rely on trusted sources — people or organisations — for information. They want the latest knowledge and they need it integrated so that it applies to their own particular problems.

Knowledge brokers meet these needs.

