



# Environmental Outcomes of the National Water Initiative

Dr Mark Siebentritt  
CEO, Waterfind Environment Fund  
Tuesday, 4 September 2007

*What are the specific challenges in the MDB with the delivery of water to icon sites in a drying climate?*

1. Embracing engineering responses
  - a) Pumping
  - b) Weir raising
  - c) Dredging
  
2. Water trading becomes more important
  - a) More pressure to get mix of products right
  - b) Prices remain high
  
3. Pressure to not deliver water for the environment is high
  - a) Vandalism of the Hattah Lakes pumps
  - b) Who is best positioned to deliver water?

*How can the Commonwealth under the National Plan for Water Security catalyse appropriate interactions between environmental managers and achieve better water management?*

1. Identify the tasks
  - a) Which are linked?
  - b) Which can or must be separated?
  - c) Differentiate on scale
2. Understand who is best placed to deliver various tasks?
  - a) Role of non-profits
  - b) Leads to appropriate networks
3. Create organisational certainty
  - a) What opportunities exist?
  - b) Role of public versus private sector



*There are many players in environmental management. How can they work together to deliver environmental outcomes under the NWI*

- Clarify different responsibilities and what environmental outcomes are they required to achieve
  - Planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, sourcing, holding, trading
  - Who is best placed to undertake the different tasks
    - Environmental outcomes – large, key assets versus local , community sites
    - Governance reasons for separation
    - Community acceptance
  - Create organisational certainty
- Federal government's Basin Plan – identify responsibilities based on task and scale
- Private, NGOs – need to know what the boundaries are because they are running a business, can deliver benefits that public bodies can't, but need to be sustainable – U.S. provides examples of non-profits working

In your experience what would (does) good environmental management look like

- Healthier environment
- Committees, multidisciplinary, respect for knowledge
- Respecting legality of water rights
- Ability to record and report results in a scientifically defensible manner and withstand the town hall test
- Community involved in local projects and singing their praises