

**ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science Centre
Board Meeting**

Location: Monash Conference centre. 30 Collins St Melbourne

Date: 2 March 2016

Time: 1030-1600

Item	Topic	Notes and Actions
1.	Introductions and welcome Actions from last meeting [SG + AJP]	<p>Present: Peter Doherty (Chair), Ian Dunlop, Stephen Gray (minutes), Melissa Hart, Christian Jakob, Dave Johnson, Peter May, Jon Petch, Andy Pitman, Andreas Schiller By phone for a portion of the meeting: Helen Cleugh, Laura Poole Warren</p> <p>Minutes and action items tabled and accepted Outstanding action regarding the wording of Centre KPI around the National Framework on climate change: the current indicator will be retained and reported with a footnote stating that when a new framework emerges, the KPI will be updated</p>
2.	The Annual Report & 4 page report summary	<p>Andy noted various highlights from the report summary including significant publications, publication metrics (#2 in Australia on <i>Nature Collaboration Index</i> and 43% of 2011-2015 papers among the top 10% of papers cited globally) and scientific accomplishments across the research programs.</p> <p>KPIs were largely met for 2015 and in some cases exceeded by a large margin. Key unmet areas were around student and ECR exchange visits between nodes and Partner Organisations. It was noted that such visits ought to be science driven and that the Centre should develop strategies to increase such opportunities for students and ECRs.</p> <p>Discussion continued on the setting of new KPIs in the event that the proposal for the ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes is successful, particularly in light of the ARC's evolving focus on measuring the impact of research.</p> <p>Ian Dunlop queried the fact that the Annual Report didn't mention the 2017 CoE funding round proposal which occupied a lot of time in 2015. In response, Andy explained that the 2017 proposal</p>

		is not strictly a renewal of the current centre, but rather funding for a new Centre. As such proposal preparation activity does not constitute core business of the current Centre. Discussion continued on the current media landscape and national discourse on climate-related matters and the role of scientists and scientific organisations around advocacy.
3.	Update by the Director [AJP] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel Communications, Newsletters, Weekly bulletin Implementation of recommendations from the mid-term review (Including benchmarking report) 	<p>Personnel: Andy highlighted recent post doctoral appointments, healthy enrolment numbers and PhD submissions. The success of ARCCSS graduates in securing international post-doctoral positions was also noted.</p> <p>Brief update on the other agenda items.</p>
4.	The ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes – Submitted Funding Proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific foci of the proposed Centre Key personnel and partnerships Knowledge brokerage strategies Timeline/interviews/etc 	<p>Andy outlined the multi-step process of the funding proposal, including imminent reviews of the full proposal and related rejoinders. Competitive centres will be invited to interviews in May. The new Centre’s Knowledge Brokerage Team will be an integral pillar of the new Centre’s pathway to impact strategy. Jon Petch offered to share insights from the UK Met Office’s experiences in this area. [AP/SG to follow up during the development of the new Centre’s impact strategy]</p> <p>Peter May suggests taking specific examples of pathways to impact to the interviews in May.</p> <p>Peter May to circulate the public report for the Managing Climate Variability Program which contains a number of useful measures of the socio-economic impacts and return on investment of research and infrastructure (NCI).</p> <p>Ian Dunlop to circulate <i>Nature</i> article on climate risk and potential for legal action against major companies and their directors in light of a lower emission future in response to climate projections</p>
Coffee		
5.	The National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub	<p>Helen Cleugh joined the meeting by teleconference.</p> <p>Since the announcement of the program in May 2015 there has been wide consultation, an over-subscribed call for expressions of interest to carry out research proposals, the development of the hub’s governance structure and collaboration with the other NESP hubs.</p> <p>Despite recent CSIRO cuts to climate science capacity, indications thus far suggest continuing organisational support and commitment to the hub.</p> <p>Andreas Schiller confirmed this commitment. Further clarity is likely by mid-late March.</p> <p>Peter May reiterated BoM’s support of the NESP and of Helen Cleugh’s leadership of the hub.</p>
6.	Update by the Director Part 2 [AJP] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Centre threats 	<p>Update on Centre Threats. Partner relationships: NCAS non-engagement noted.</p> <p>The evolving situation with CSIRO presents significant uncertainty and potential threats to the</p>

	<p>[paper 3]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 research priorities and Centre initiatives • The strategic plan [paper 4] 	<p>centre via the erosion of national modelling capacity and infrastructure around ACCESS and ongoing investment in NCI –both from CSIRO and ongoing uncertainty of longer term NCRIS funding.</p> <p>BoM was a stronger partner than CSIRO in the proposal for the new Centre from 2017 and that partnership is strong at the researcher level and links at the organizational level. However CSIRO cuts could result in having to review strategies around MOM, CABLE, CMIP-6 in light of remaining capacity in Australia.</p> <p>2016 Research Priorities Brief highlights given in the meeting of research priorities across the five research programs. Full statement of intent documents to be circulated with meeting minutes. These documents are also for dissemination among interested people in BoM and CSIRO. Subsequent comments and feedback invited.</p> <p>The Centre’s strategic plan has not been updated in the past 12 months. Once there is greater clarity around CSIRO, the plan will be updated in response to the new landscape</p> <p>Peter May alerted the meeting to the imminent re-launch of the <i>Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Journal</i> as <i>The Journal of Southern Hemisphere Earth Systems Science(JSHESS)</i>. Dr Sophie Lewis (ANU) will be the new editor.</p>
Lunch		
7.	<p>Guest presentation: Jon Petch, UK Met Office</p>	<p>Dr Jon Petch (Head UKMO Collaborations) gave a presentation that showcased the Met Office’s national and international linkages, collaborations and knowledge exchange. This extensive work takes place in the context of the 2016-2021 Science Strategy, which was in turn informed by the UK’s National Climate Capability statement.</p> <p>In discussion a number of points of difference were noted between the UK and Australian approaches to investment in climate research across government agencies and the university sector as well as noting similarities in terms of the importance of cross-sector collaboration and the mandate for research groups to demonstrate impact and translation strategies.</p>
8.	<p>The Graduate Program – Dr Melissa Hart</p>	<p>Presentation from Melissa Hart on metrics and program highlights from 2015 that illustrate the size and scale of the Centre’s graduate program. Discussion of plans for 2016 including training and workshop calendar.</p> <p>Discussion on mental health and wellbeing of the PhD cohort as a result of increasing instances of students presenting with symptoms of anxiety and other mental and emotional difficulties.</p> <p>Actions that the Centre will look to implement include increasing the awareness of senior staff of mental health issues and ways of supporting students and responding to students in crisis. Action: MH/SG to collate a list of resources offered by each of the Centre’s nodes both for students and for</p>

		<p>raising staff awareness. Where possible the compilation of this information ought to include specific names of people to contact during times of difficulty, not just generic email addresses of counselling services.</p> <p>Action: Andy Pitman to seek dialogue with Ben Newell at UNSW on the possible specific implications for the mental health of climate researchers given the gravity of the research topic.</p>
9.	Centre partnerships	<p>CSIRO – uncertain future. To date the partnership has been effective</p> <p>BoM – Successful partnership, though focus to be placed on more robust personnel exchanges</p> <p>UKMO – Positive partnership at both the strategic and scientific level. Some two-way visits.</p> <p>GFDL – Very strong partnership, particularly around MOM development, though this ongoing work could be threatened by CSIRO fallout</p> <p>MPI and ETH Zurich – both are somewhat recently added partners via MoU. They have since both agreed to be formally partnered with the 2017 Centre which demonstrates the strength of the partnerships. They grew from bottom-up scientific collaboration.</p> <p>There is an ongoing challenge for the Centre to partner with New Zealand, the pacific and S.E. Asia. However the Centre will continue to seek partnerships in these regions where mutually beneficial</p>