

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

Location: CSIRO Marine and Atmosphere, Yarralumla, ACT

Date: 5 March 2015

Time: 0930-1530

Item	Topic	Notes and Actions
1.	Introductions and welcome	Present: Helen Cleugh, Peter Doherty (Chair), Amy Dumbrell, Ian Dunlop, Stephen Gray (minutes), Melissa Hart, Christian Jakob, Peter May, Jean Palutikof (by Video), Andy Pitman, Laura Poole Warren. Guest presenter: Sophie Lewis
2.	Actions from last meeting [SG + AJP]	Action items and minutes tabled. All action items flagged at the last meeting have been resolved.
3.	Update by the Director [AJP] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel [paper 1] • Update on Centre threats [paper 2] • Communications, Newsletters, Weekly bulletin • 2015 research priorities and projects 	<p>Personnel: The board is satisfied with the information given on new staff and students in the tabled report, noting that the centre can provide more details at any time on projects as candidatures progress</p> <p>The success of the summer vacation scholarship program was highlighted. It has led to honours and PhD applications and enrolments from strong candidates.</p> <p>Centre Threats: The tabled report indicates no significant changes or increased threats to the Centre.</p> <p>The uncertainty of continuing government support for NCRIS poses a threat for the community. AP drew the Board's attention to two LIEF grants (one current and one proposed) to build and</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategic plan [paper 3] 	<p>maintain infrastructure and capacity at NCI.</p> <p>Communications: Brief update on ongoing initiatives. Action Item – SG to ensure Board members are on the recipient list for ARCCSS newsletters.</p> <p>Research Priorities: A document outlining the research intents and priorities for each of the five RPs plus the CMS team and Graduate program was distributed. The intents and priorities have been developed consultatively across the centre and with our key Partner Organisations.</p> <p>J.P. offers NCCARF input to support the Extremes priority of developing “impacts relevant” indices.</p> <p>Action: Extremes workshop organisers to invite NCCARF representative/s to participate</p> <p>Strategic Plan: Current version of the plan was tabled. The only recent change is addition of engagement with the NESP for Earth System and Climate Change Hub. H.C. notes that the plan refers to some government agencies that are now redundant. Also recommends changing the descriptor for CAWCR from ‘joint venture’ to ‘collaboration’ to reflect the correct legal nature of the link between CSIRO and BoM vis-à-vis CAWCR.</p> <p>NESP Update: A.D. provided brief background from the DoE on the hub application assessment process and aims of the NESP program.</p> <p>H.C. then outlined the current early stages of establishment of the hub, its governance structure and scoping and determination of research priorities in line with the Department’s goals. A.P. commits ARCCSS to working closely with the NESP to align research priorities.</p> <p>Action Item: Helen Cleugh will maintain her seat on the ARCCSS board as NESP representative. A new CSIRO member will be invited to join the ARCCSS board. H.C. and A.P. to liaise and suggest a suitable person to invite. NESP update to be a standing item on the Board meeting agenda.</p>
4.	<p>The ARC’s report of the Centre’s mid-term review [paper 4]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key findings The Centre’s response [paper 5] Implementing the review panel’s recommendations 	<p>AP provided a brief outline of the key points of the ARC report which was a positive recognition of the Centre’s research outputs and operations.</p> <p>Responses to the six recommendations (tabled) indicated where efforts are already underway in the identified areas and raised questions of areas recommended that are outside of the Centre’s remit or which were problematic - such as making data available on the Centre website – as such data would require the provision of significant technical and scientific support for most end users to use and interpret effectively. Discussion ensued on the relevant roles of the NESP, BoM, CSIRO, NCCARF and the NRM to act collaboratively in actively engaging stakeholders and providing</p>

		<p>tailored climate data and model outputs to end users in local. State and federal government, business, agriculture, etc. C.J. emphasises the ARCCSS primary role in this chain is to continue to carry out blue-sky research.</p> <p>Ideas for further consideration that arose from the discussion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully managed PhD cross-enrolments, internships or placements (across NESP partners for example, or business if genuine mutual benefit exists) • NCCARF support to ARRCCS for drafting and publishing documentation around the Centre's areas of expertise and the channels through which its science can be practically made available • Focusing on key focus areas (such as risk) in developing a strategy to better inform and engage with senior corporate leaders. HC indicated possible CSIRO interest in a joint program to engage with CEOs. • Ensure the Centre's application for re-funding articulates an engagement plan <p>Benchmarking recommendation: Identifying suitably comparable research groups to benchmark ARCCSS against poses a challenge. It's unlikely that a direct like-for-like comparison will be possible. As such the benchmarking process will need to involve a normalisation step to compare output, impact etc per staff member or in terms of scale of investment etc. Action Item: SG to contact Murray Green (UNSW) and Fiona Cameron (ARC) for further advice in the early stages of the project.</p>
	Coffee	
5.	The Graduate Program	<p>M.H. spoke to recommendations from the mid-term review that directly addressed the graduate program. Throughout 2015 there will be further development of professional and leadership development for students and ECRs that leverage of existing programs at each institution or to be organised and run by the Centre where there are gaps in institutional offerings. Other initiatives include the now self-led ECR committee and a mentoring program to initially target DECRA fellows across the Centre.</p>

		<p>Student numbers are increasing across the nodes. New enrolments are outstripping completions. MH to implement a training needs analysis for incoming students and a more formally planned, less ad hoc calendar of training events.</p> <p>2015 Winter School to run at UTAS in June. Broad topic of ocean biogeochemistry</p> <p>The success of the summer vacation scholarship program for UG students was again highlighted.</p>
6.	<p>The 2014 Annual Report [Paper 7]</p> <p><i>Highlights</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KPIs [Paper 8] <p><i>Concerns</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unmet KPIs or associated concerns • Discussion of 4 page version [paper 6] 	<p>Discussion on the Annual Report centred primarily around the centre's 2015 KPIs – many of which were severely underestimated at inception.</p> <p>Action item: SG to seek advice from the ARC on how to change the wording of a KPI due to the target on acknowledged contributions to the <i>National Framework</i> no longer being relevant. AD to take on notice the question of how the DoE would like such a KPI rephrased.</p> <p>Discussion arose on possible future direction of The Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Journal (AMOJ).</p>
		Lunch
7.	<p>Rebid strategy and national and international partnerships</p>	<p>Universities are awaiting notification from the ARC of the bid submission timeline and funding rules for new centres to commence operations in 2017.</p> <p>They have indicated however that the process will comprise of an Expression of Interest round and an invitation for full proposal for those shortlisted at EoI stage.</p> <p>A refunded Centre of Excellence will look to a thematic focus around processes leading to climate extremes, having built upon the understandings gained from the first seven years of ARCCSS work around better understanding and modelling of means. This focus will fit within the framework of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). – Graphic distributed.</p> <p>The re-bid proposal will include continued investment in the graduate program and likely additional funding of CMS activities, particularly to address the challenge of data.</p> <p>The same five universities will be involved.</p> <p>The cohort of CIs will remain largely the same as the current round. There will be some likely</p>

		<p>changes in PIs as a result of some changes to Partner Orgs. The number of PIs per organisation will depend on the details of the funding rules when announced.</p> <p>It's yet to be decided whether to keep the same name or not. The recent inclusion of "climate change" in the new NESP Hub's name suggests the centre's current name would not be politically inexpedient.</p> <p>Discussion took place around ACCESS and community-wide strategy and cooperation in model development in light of likely Australian supercomputing capabilities into the future.</p> <p>AP to continue meeting and engaging with stakeholders, including the organisations represented on the board.</p> <p>LPW reminds the Centre to ensure governance and the graduate program are carefully integrated in the centre rebid, not treated as add ons.</p>
9.	Science Talk – Dr Sophie Lewis, ANU	Dr Sophie Lewis, Chair of the ARCCSS ECR committee gave a presentation on research she has been carrying out on palaeo records, past climate and ENSO
10.	Other business	There was no further business. The meeting closed at 3pm.