

## NCCARF Highlights: Promoting excellence in adaptation



### The Forum for NCCARF, States and Territories (FORNSAT)

Australian States and Territories are essential stakeholders for the core business of NCCARF. NCCARF needs to liaise with these important stakeholders to understand their research needs, to disseminate results from research, and to involve them in the many and diverse activities of the Facility.

Despite this need, the very broad diversity of Departments across the States and Territories makes working with each one individually a difficult if not impossible task for a nexus organisation like NCCARF.

To address the need for engagement, in 2008 NCCARF established FORNSAT - the Forum for NCCARF States and Territories - as a mechanism for all Australian state and territory governments to interact with the Facility, and also with each other, to progress climate change adaptation research and activity in Australia.

#### Feedback from the States and Territories

*"NCCARF's Forum for State and Territories (FORNSAT) meetings have been very valuable for a number of reasons. At these meetings the State and Territories get briefings on the range of NCCARF's activities, the activities of the Adaptation Research Networks and the climate change adaptation research projects it has funded. FORNSAT provides a forum for providing important end user perspectives for NCCARF's future planning. Importantly, it has also provided a regular forum for the various State and Territory participants to talk with each other and get regular briefings on climate change adaptation initiatives occurring in respective jurisdictions. It has been a useful forum for discussing the challenges of adaptation and sharing of experiences and lessons learnt."*

James Duggie, Western Australia's FORNSAT representative

FORNSAT has proved to be a highly valuable forum for the exchange of ideas across a broad range of NCCARF stakeholders, as well as with NCCARF itself.

Each State and Territory was invited to nominate a representative to sit on the Forum and be responsible for liaising between NCCARF and the research and policy communities in their jurisdiction.

#### FORNSAT meetings

Meetings are held on a four to six monthly basis. They present a number of opportunities:

##### **Sharing State/Territory-based research**

At each meeting, State and Territory representatives are asked to describe the various research projects being funded or undertaken in their area. It quickly became obvious that this could enable the sharing of ideas, combining of synergistic projects and identification of leveraging opportunities.

##### **Exposing NCCARF research to end users**

The meetings are also aimed at sharing new NCCARF research. To enable this, NCCARF is able to bring in Network representatives and researchers to share their approaches and ideas. In turn, FORNSAT provides a valuable opportunity to access critical end user expertise in developing and assessing new research projects.

##### **Developing synergies**

As well as exchanging ideas and information, FORNSAT attendees are able to build on ideas, model policy development and approaches, and evaluate their work through peer interaction and comparisons.

Since its inception, the FORNSAT relationship has grown and members wish to regularly share ideas. NCCARF has set up a web portal to facilitate this dialogue.



Cable Beach, WA

## Other FORNSAT engagement

### Supporting NCCARF research programs

FORNSAT has been heavily involved in the review process for the two research programs managed by NCCARF: the thematic Adaptation Research Grants Program and the Synthesis and Integrative Research program, with representatives acting as members of the Scientific Review Panels which evaluate proposals. Not only is this invaluable to the process of assessing research proposals, but it emphasises the importance of stakeholder engagement in developing adaptation research.

NCCARF relies on FORNSAT members to publicise research calls through their networks.

### Communication activities

FORNSAT members have been involved in organising and facilitating NCCARF seminars, workshops and events. In addition they have facilitated access to key stakeholders in their jurisdictions to assist NCCARF in articulating research needs and ensuring end-user relevance in its activities. FORNSAT members contribute strongly to the planning of large NCCARF events such as the annual conference.

### Interactions with NCCARF's Networks

FORNSAT provides a valuable resource for a broad group of adaptation stakeholders. An annual combined meeting of FORNSAT and the Adaptation Research Network Conveners facilitates productive collaborative engagement between these two groups. The meetings are arranged around joint presentations by a Network and FORNSAT Member focussing on a topic of interest, thus allowing the views of researchers and end users to be presented and discussed side-by-side.

### FORNSAT and the NCCARF Board

Recently, with the establishment of an NCCARF Board, FORNSAT has provided an opportunity for the State representative on the Board to liaise face-to-face with other State and Territory representatives.

## In summary

FORNSAT has helped its members to build important networks of experts and policy specialists. This has led to better and more effective reviews of policy and science and resulted in higher quality adaptation plans and policies being developed and implemented.

FORNSAT has been an important and positive initiative for States, Territories and NCCARF, and has improved coordination, cooperation and knowledge sharing between important stakeholders in climate change adaptation for Australia.

For more information visit the FORNSAT website at [www.nccarf.edu.au/fornsats](http://www.nccarf.edu.au/fornsats)

April 2011 meeting held in Cairns to enable attendance at NCCARF 2011 Conference.



Most meetings held in Adelaide or Melbourne as geographic centres for delegates.