

A SCIENCE POLICY FOR DEC

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Outline

- Definition of science
- Role of science in DEC
- Need for a DEC science policy
- Objectives of a DEC science policy
- Existing science administration in DEC
- Proposed approach
- Benefits

Definition of science

- Includes ecological and social science
- **RESEARCH** – understanding of natural and social environment and their interaction
- **MONITORING** (+ evaluation and reporting) – trends of C-P-R within an adaptive management framework
- **COMMUNICATION** – Knowledge transfer and uptake

Role of Science in DEC

To provide ecological and social knowledge to support:

- **Policy development** (e.g. SZ policy)
- **Planning** (e.g. RMP, PAs, Rec and Tourism)
- **Operational management** (e.g. compliance, education, intervention programs)

Need for a science policy

- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of science delivery and uptake
- Expenditure on science by DEC estimated to be > \$30M pa
- ~50% by SD, ~ 50% by other divisions
- Formal admin arrangements in SD, largely informal elsewhere

Need for a science policy

- Formal arrangements improve: accountability, relevance, quality, timeliness, access, transfer and uptake
- Protection of LT MER programs – decadal timeframes
- Need for a standard approach across DEC

Objectives of a science policy

To ensure:

- DEC-funded science is relevant
- The quality of science planning, implementation and reporting is high
- Outputs are communicated and available
- Data are accessible and stored
- Personal accountability is promoted
- A legacy of the public investment in science remains (i.e. transfer and uptake)

Existing arrangements

- Science Division – SD Strategic Plan, SCP, SPP, ARAR, EPDP, SPP database
- SD liaison officers with RS
- Other Divisions – largely informal

Proposed policy approach

- RESEARCH and MER projects undertaken by DEC (internal or external funding)
 - *Administration is consistent with SD approach (SCP, SPP etc)*
 - *SCP and SPP approval by divisional leaders with advice from SD liaison officers*
- RESEARCH and MER projects supported by DEC
 - *Administration is consistent with SD approach*
 - *SCP approval by divisional leaders with advice from SD liaison officers*

Benefits

- DEC-funded/supported science investment addresses priorities
- The quality of science planning, implementation and reporting is high
- Outputs are communicated and available
- Data are accessible and stored
- Personal accountability is promoted
- A legacy of the public investment in science remains (i.e. transfer and uptake)