

Australian Water Recycling Centre of Excellence



“The Centre’s Strategic Research Plan is the product of extensive consultation with the water industry to establish industry relevant goals, and involved significant contributions from the members of our Research Advisory Committee.”

RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR
IAN LAW



The Centre’s Strategic Research Plan 2010

The Australian Water Recycling Centre of Excellence has finalised its inaugural Strategic Research Plan – the document which will guide the investment strategy for more than \$20 million in research funding.

In developing the Centre’s Strategic Research Plan, the CEO and Research Advisory Committee (RAC) worked with industry and research practitioners to identify water recycling research gaps, prior to the Centre establishing its directions and goals for the next three years.

Development of the plan began with the release of discussion papers summarising gaps in the current body of research and identifying potentially relevant research topics. Comments were sought from the water recycling community in Australia and overseas, and the CEO Mark O’Donohue and RAC Chair, Ian Law held a series of workshops across Australia involving utilities, regulators, industry and researchers. The aim of the workshops was to identify research topics seen as the highest priority and to establish industry relevant goals to guide the Centre’s investment.

Through a collaborative process, the Centre has identified four goals which would enhance efficiency, expansion and acceptance of water recycling in Australia:

- Goal 1: The social/economic/environmental value of water recycling is demonstrated and enhanced.
- Goal 2: A national validation framework for water recycling is established.
- Goal 3: Reclaimed water is seen as an acceptable ‘alternative water’ for augmenting drinking water supplies.
- Goal 4: A national knowledge, training and education program for water recycling is established.

These four goals will focus the research undertaken by the Centre and guide its funding allocations.

Where to next:

With the Strategic Research Plan in place, the Centre will be calling for research proposals over several rounds of funding. Information on the Centre’s research plan and funding opportunities can be found on the Centre’s website.

For further information contact:

Sarah Haydon
Research and Commercialisation Manager
Tel 07 3015 9708
sarah.haydon@australianwaterrecycling.com.au

In addition to the four goals, the Strategic Research Plan also outlines the status of water recycling development in Australia and overseas, recognises the challenges associated with the continuing development of water recycling and outlines how the themes and goals will guide the Centre’s investment portfolio to help meet these challenges.

The Plan will be available on the Centre’s website and reviewed annually.

For a copy of the Australian Water Recycling Centre of Excellence’s Strategic Research Plan visit www.australianwaterrecycling.com.au.



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Aligning Research Topics and Goals

The Strategic Research Plan (SRP) identifies a range of research topics and four industry relevant goals that the Centre is committed to helping achieve. The Centre will seek proposals from industry and research organisations that are designed to address the research gaps and help deliver on the goals.

The Centre's Research Advisory Committee will use the SRP to guide its recommendations on investment priorities to the Board. In

doing so, the Research Advisory Committee will seek to ensure that proposals are aligned with the SRP and that research topics are structured and prioritised to help achieve the Goals.

The following figure aligns the priority research topics presented in the SRP with the Goals, and provides an indication of how the research gaps and goals may relate.

Research Topics	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4
4.1.1 Management of salts and saline effluents	■			
4.1.2 Improve online monitoring		■	■	
4.1.3 Optimisation of existing process technologies	■			
4.1.4 Optimal integration of water sources, users and technologies	■		■	■
4.1.5 Novel innovative technologies for water recycling	■			■
4.2.1 Chemicals and transformation products	■	■		
4.2.2 Mixture toxicity	■		■	
4.2.3 Low concentrations, long-term exposure and safety assessment	■	■	■	
4.2.4 Variable expouser as a consequence of hazardous events	■			■
4.2.5 Pathogens – selection, measurement and validation		■	■	■
4.2.6 Risk allocation			■	
4.2.7 Practical implementation of the <i>Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling</i>		■		
4.2.8 Monitoring and risk			■	
4.2.9 Knowledge management and a consistent approach to implementation	■	■		■
4.3.1 Economics of water recycling	■			
4.3.2 Institutions and governance			■	
4.3.3 Social research into water recycling			■	
4.4.1 Knowledge management and life cycle assessment				■
4.4.2 Targeted technology to reduce carbon footprint				■

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Footnote:
The matrix does not prescribe how projects should address the goals, and projects will be required to demonstrate how their project proposals will integrate a range of research topics to help achieve the goals.