

## Overview

The National Environmental Science Programme (NESP) is a long-term commitment to support environmental and climate research, managed by the Department of the Environment. The key objective of the NESP is to improve our understanding of Australia's environment through collaborative research that delivers accessible results and informs decision making. The focus of NESP is on practical and applied research that informs on-ground action and that will yield measurable improvements to the environment.

The Marine Biodiversity Hub is a national partnership of nine funded research providers reflecting the Department's national responsibilities. It will deliver research that will support the Government's marine biodiversity priorities in "A Plan for a Cleaner Environment". State partners NSW DPI & NSW OHE will increase our capacity to provide nationally consistent scientific information in priority areas to support evidence-based decision making. A tenth non-funded partner, the NCRIS-funded Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) is a national collaborative research infrastructure providing substantial in-kind co-investment to the Hub.

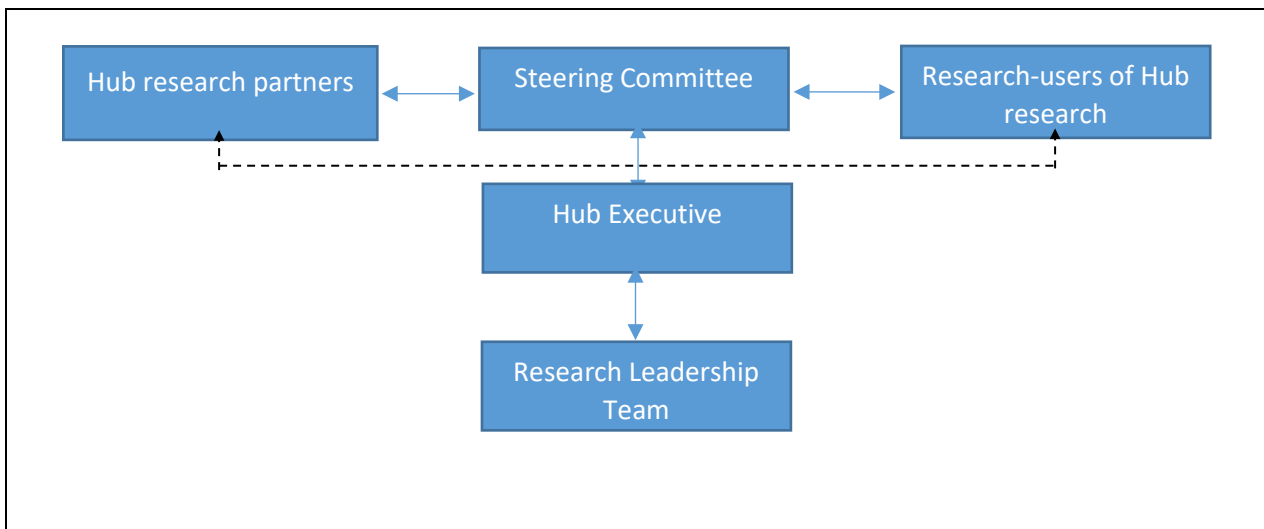
The NESP Marine Biodiversity Hub responsibilities and commitments include to:

- Design and deliver research that meets the agreed NESP research priorities and strategic interests of the Hub's research partners and stakeholders
- Meet agreed milestones in the research plans on time and within budget
- Manage and acquit Hub finances and other contractual issues in accordance with the NESP funding agreement, sub-contracts and research plans
- Promote uptake of the Hub's research by end-users
- Contribute to national collaboration on marine biodiversity research
- Provide a succession plan to sustain the Marine Biodiversity Hub into the future

The role of the Hub's governance is to provide the oversight, direction and guidance to ensure the Hub delivers its responsibilities and commitments effectively and efficiently. This will include:

- Approval of the Hub's Annual Research Plan and the strategies to deliver these
- Monitoring progress in meeting the Hub's commitments to the NESP, including the approval annual reports on Hub performance to the NESP
- Approval of the annual allocation of resources across the research priorities, including approval of allocation of significant new resources or material departures in resource allocation between partners and priorities (under or over eg 10+% variation?)
- Review and endorsement of key Hub policies, plans and procedures, including the Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation Plans,
- Advise and support the Director in effective engagement with key stakeholders and potential new partners and end users
- Oversight of the key risks to the effective delivery of the Hub's commitments
- Review and advise the Hub partners on opportunities to broaden the uptake of the Hub's research and to extend the capacity and continuation of the Hub beyond its NESP contract

## Basic structure of governance committees



## Steering Committee<sup>1</sup>

The steering committee meets twice a year to provide an update of policy and management developments and priorities within DoE, to approve progress against existing research plan, approve new research plan and to ensure that the Hub's policies, plans and procedures are meeting contractual obligations and to recommend any changes to improve their effectiveness.

Role	Nominee	Alternate
Independent chair	Peter Cochrane	
Hub administrator (administrator/investor)	Terry Bailey (UTAS)	
NESP administrator (investor/grant provider)	Nick Post (DoEE)	
Essential/key research users (DoE Line Areas)	Jason Mundy, Geoff Richardson	
Chair Research Users Committee	Peter Cochrane	
Chair and nominees from Research Partners Committee	David Souter, Karen Gibb (CDU) / Gary Kendrick (UWA), Trevor Dhu (GA)	
Indigenous interests	Stan Lui, Torres Strait Regional Authority	
Hub exec (ex officio)	Nic Bax (Director), Paul Hedge (Deputy Director), Sarah Gracie (Senior Executive Officer)	

## Governance roles

1. Approval of the Hub's Annual Research Plan and the strategies to deliver these
2. Monitoring progress in meeting the Hub's commitments to the NESP, including the approval annual reports on Hub performance to the NESP
3. Approval of the annual allocation of resources across the research priorities, including approval of allocation of significant new resources or material departures in resource allocation between partners and priorities (under or over eg 10+% variation?)
4. Review and endorsement of key Hub policies, plans and procedures, including the Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation Plans,
5. Advise and support the Director in effective engagement with key stakeholders and potential new partners and end users
6. Oversight of the key risks to the effective delivery of the Hub's commitments
7. Review and advise the Hub partners on opportunities to broaden the uptake of the Hub's research and to extend the capacity and continuation of the Hub beyond its NESP contract

<sup>1</sup>

- Only consider requests from DoE (i.e. do not consider requests outside DoE)
- Projects less than \$50K - Director to consider, approve and advise Research Leadership Team (RLT)
- Projects between \$50-200K - Director to work with RLT, consider and approve.
- Projects over \$200K - Director to work with Steering Committee for consideration and approval.

Steering Committee minutes March 22, 2016

## Research-User Committee

The Research User Committee meets annually to review previous work and advise on priorities for future research. Secretarial support will be provided by the Hub Executive Officer, and papers will be circulated at least a week in advance of the meeting. Individual members will in addition be invited to attend additional Marine Biodiversity Hub research planning meetings

<b>Research User</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
Independent chair	Peter Cochrane	
Department of the Environment	Lee-Anne Shepherd (DoE)	
Fisheries management	TBA (AFMA)	Ryan Murphy, AFMA
Oil and gas management	Christine Lamont	Cameron Sim (NOPSEMA) or Tim Carter
Oil and gas industry	Libby Howitt, APPEA (Quadrant Energy)	
Environmental NGO	Richard Leck – WWF-Australia	
Indigenous interests		
Hub exec (ex officio)	Nic Bax (Director), Paul Hedge (Deputy Director), Sarah Gracie (Senior Executive Officer)	
Fishing and Aquaculture	Crispian Ashby	Patrick Hone
AMSA	Paul Irving	

## Governance Roles

1. Inform the development of research plans by identifying research-user needs and priorities
2. Identify opportunities to connect the Hub's research to research-users
3. Promote and encourage communication between the Hub, State and Australian government agencies and other parties with an interest in the outcomes of the research.
4. Promote linkages with activities within members' organizations and agencies.
5. Assist the Hub in identifying collaborative opportunities with governments, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and the broader scientific community, including complementary research initiatives.
6. Promote collaboration between the Hub and research-users to deliver on the research plan
7. Participate in annual reviews of research plans
8. Identify pathways and mechanisms to improve the uptake of the Hub's outcomes.

## Research Partners Committee

The Research Partners Committee will meet at least twice a year to review progress against the existing research plan, and propose new ideas and opportunities for the forward research plan. Secretarial support will be provided by the Hub Projects Officer, and papers will be circulated at least a week in advance of the meeting. (Rotating Chair)

<b>Partner organisation</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
AIMS	David Souter	Adam Lewis
CDU	Karen Gibb	Peter Kyne
CSIRO	Alistair Hobday	Peter Thompson
GA	Trevor Dhu	
Museum Victoria	Tim O'Hara	Robin Wilson
NSW OEH	Tim Pritchard	Peter Davies
NSW DPI	Natalie Moltschanivskyj	Alan Jordan
UTAS	Terry Bailey	
UWA	Gary Kendrick	Peter Davies
IMOS	Tim Moltmann	Ana Lara-Lopez
Hub	Director Deputy Director Project Officer (Secretariat)	-

## Governance Roles

1. To identify and advise on strategic science required to meet priority needs of the Department and other users, so as to develop research plans that match the capabilities of research partners to research requirements of the hub
2. To ensure and monitor the effective engagement of research partners in the Hub
3. To identify opportunities to connect the Hub's research to other research and policy initiatives
4. Promote and encourage communication between the Hub, State and Australian government agencies and other parties with an interest in the outcomes of the research.
5. Promote linkages with activities within members' organizations and agencies.
6. Assist the Hub in identifying collaborative opportunities with governments, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and the broader scientific community, including complementary research initiatives.
7. Promote collaboration between research partners to deliver on the research plan
8. Participate in annual reviews of research plans
9. In line with the National Marine Science Plan, play a lead role in progressing marine biodiversity science in Australia with the National Estuaries Network (inshore) and National Research Providers Network (fisheries)

## Appointment and role of the Chair and Deputy Chair

The Chair will be appointed by the members for a period of two years. The Chair will run the Research Partners Committee meetings according to the Committee's Terms of Reference, working with the Hub Executive to ensure the agenda, papers and minutes are prepared in a timely fashion and to a high standard. Based on agreed outcomes from Research Partners Committee meetings, the Chair will represent the Research Partners as a member of the Hub Steering Committee.

A Deputy Chair will also be appointed by the members for a period of two years. The Deputy Chair will assist the Chair in discharge of their duties, including as a representative on the Hub Steering Committee. The Deputy will act as Chair of the Research Partners Committee if the Chair is unavailable. The Deputy Chair will become the new Chair at the end of each two year period, unless the members agree otherwise.

### Other RPC members on the NESP MBH Steering Committee

Diversity of Research Partners is a great strength of the Hub, spanning the Commonwealth, State, University and Museum sectors. However not all of these partners will have a willingness or ability to provide nominees for the role of Chair or Deputy Chair. In order to ensure that discussions at the Hub Steering Committee can benefit from this diversity, a third representative appointed by the Research Partners Committee will attend the Hub Steering Committee meetings to assist the Chair and Deputy Chair in their representation.

## Research Leadership Team

The Research Leadership Team meets monthly to review progress against existing research plan and identify new opportunities and at least twice a year in person to develop a draft Research Plan and review how existing projects are meeting strategic goals of the Hub. Secretarial support will be provided by the Hub Projects Officer, and papers will be circulated at least a week in advance of the meeting.

<b>Research Leader</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
Director (chair)	Nic Bax (UTAS)
Deputy Director	Paul Hedge (UTAS)
Threatened and Migratory Marine Species	Michele Thums (AIMS)
Threatened and Migratory Marine Species	Peter Kyne (CDU)
Pressure and Impacts	Piers Dunstan (CSIRO)
Monitoring and System Understanding	Rachel Przeslawski (GA)
Monitoring and System Understanding	Neville Barrett (UTAS)
CoP Experimental Design and Analysis	Keith Hayes (CSIRO)
Project Officer	Annabel Ozimec (Hub)

## Governance Roles

1. Develop annual research plans (and milestones) incorporating input from the Research User and Research Partner Committees
2. Contribute to and review periodic progress reports, annual reports and final report, including progress against agreed milestones
3. Co-ordinate research activities within the Marine Biodiversity Hub's research themes to ensure the Hub functions as a single collaborative entity to achieve its contracted outcomes.
4. Ensure that the individual projects within the Marine Biodiversity Hub are well integrated and that a high degree of collaboration is maintained between the research providers of the Hub.
5. Review and evaluate the technical and scientific rigour and progress of individual research proposals and their subsequent executions
6. Review and evaluate the progress of individual research providers in relation to contracted milestones and deliverables.
7. Identify Hub and collaborative opportunities and contribute to securing investment in the research Hub.
8. Co-ordinate and contribute to overall communication activities within the Marine Biodiversity Hub and between the research Hub and related external activity.
9. Promote uptake of outputs of the Marine Biodiversity Hub especially within Australia's marine science community
10. Identify opportunities for collaboration with other research initiatives and institutions in Australia and internationally.
11. Identify opportunities to communicate the research findings and outputs of the Hub to the wider scientific community.
12. Identify conferences, symposia, exchange programs and other training opportunities for early career scientists involved in the Hub.