

**Cooperative Research Centre for Landscape Environments and Mineral Exploration**

MEMORANDUM

To: CRC LEME Executives  
From: Dennis Gee, CEO  
Date: 17 July 2003

**Re: REPORT ON BOARD MEETING 11 JULY 03**

This is to advise Executive of some outcomes of the Board meeting of 11 July 2003.

1. The Board recognized the need for a significant boost to research funding in FY 2003 – 2004 in order to carry on effective research in following years.
2. The Board approved, in principle, the 2003-2004 research work program and budget, substantially in the form as discussed at the last Executive Meeting. This is good news, and research projects can now commence.
3. The Board considered the recent announcement from CSIRO E&M that it would significantly reduce its presence at North Ryde, and close a number of research groups, including Regolith and Environmental Geoscience.
4. The CSIRO Board Representative (Neil Philips) stated that CSIRO will maintain its contractual obligations to LEME in terms of cash contribution and in-kind commitments. However, due to policy requirements relating to potential staff changes, it is not yet in a position to designate the names and proportions of in-kind staff and thus could not sign off on the project plans for 2003/04. However it gave in-principle support to the project proposals, subject to review of the final project schedules. E&M expects to be in a position to provide this formal commitment by September 2003.
5. In giving support in principle, the Board requires us to fully complete the Project Schedules in all detail. Head Office is in the process of doing this, in consultation with some Program Leaders. Complete versions will be electronically sent on CD to Board Members, and updates, together with a budget summary, will be posted on the Intranet of the LEME Website. This will happen in advance of the further considerations by CSIRO, which may then require further changes to the detail of the projects.
6. In accepting the 2003-04 Budget, the Board directed that the cash-flow projections out to Year 7 be modified so as to produce a balanced cash-flow projection. This is being done by refining our best forward estimates of income and expenditures.
7. The Board agreed that unspent funds and profit / loss in Program 4 Salinity Projects be dedicated to ongoing salinity funding requirements.
8. The Board agreed that that salaries of designated industry-funded contract staff engaged by Geoscience Australia for Program 4 work, be underwritten by CRC funds in Year 3 (2003/04), on the expectation that Salinity contracts will be self-funding in the medium term. This position is to be closely monitored, and projects modified if serious shortfalls look likely.
9. The Board agreed that savings from Education & Training funds will be released to assist with the research operating budget in 2003-04. However Executive is to prepare

a Position Paper for presentation for the September 2003 Board meeting on the merits or otherwise of reducing E&T funding in the later years of LEME, and redirecting scholarship money to research funding, providing KPIs are met. Paul Wilkes and Pat James are asked to do this.

10. In noting that the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) contribution to LEME ceases at the end of 2003-04, the Board agreed that LEME must make a vigorous effort to renew the MCA funding, and continue the MTEC program. LEME has already made a submission to the MTEC review, and will be represented at a 3 day MTEC workshop at end of July. The objective will be to put a case to MCA for continued participation by LEME in the MTEC program. We expect to be invited to make a new submission to MCA in early September 2003.

Thanks to all of you for your efforts in getting this bold budget and work program ...up, up and (almost) away!

**Dennis Gee**