

AUSTRALIAN E-RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL (AERIC)

AERIC MEETING – 23 JULY 2007

AGENDA ITEM 2: STATEMENT BY DR MIKE SARGENT, CHAIR, NCRIS COMMITTEE

Purpose

For AeRIC members to note the statement by Dr Mike Sargent.

Issues

AeRIC will have a close working relationship with the NCRIS Committee, given each body's role.

The Chair of the NCRIS Committee, Dr Mike Sargent, had wished to be present at the inaugural AeRIC meeting and make a statement regarding the relationship between the two bodies. Unfortunately Dr Sargent will be overseas on 23 July 2007, and so he has provided the attached written statement for AeRIC.

Action

That AeRIC note Dr Sargent's statement and advise the Secretariat if they wish further discussion with Dr Sargent and the NCRIS Committee.

AeRIC Secretariat

July 2007

**STATEMENT TO THE INAUGURAL AeRIC MEETING
- DR MIKE SARGENT, CHAIR, NCRIS COMMITTEE**

- I would like to commend each of you for accepting DEST's invitation to serve on AeRIC.
- There is no doubt that you face a challenging task. This is something that we knew already, but which was highlighted during the development of the Platforms for Collaboration Investment Plan by Dr Rhys Francis.
- However, the benefits that will come through AeRIC, both in the oversight of the NCRIS Committee's investments in the Platforms for Collaboration capability and the strategic advice you are to provide, will have a substantial impact on research in Australia, particularly by accelerating the adoption of e-Research.
- As Rhys Francis noted in his Investment Plan, e-Research will allow a leap forward by enabling new research activities. This 'step change' in the nature of research, which was noted by a number of speakers at the recent e-Research Australasia conference, will lead to many breakthroughs with their consequent benefits.
- Given AeRIC will be presiding over this step change in Australian research, it is entirely appropriate that AeRIC itself represents a change in how advice is gathered from the research community and presented to the Australian Government, as well as how subsequent decisions are implemented.
- Your role as members of AeRIC is therefore one that is critical to the future of Australia.
- I would also note that I think the role of AeRIC is one that must endure, whether further NCRIS funding becomes available or not. This is because the particular challenges involved in supporting researchers and addressing the changes in the technologies that support researchers will continue, regardless of the form of government support for research infrastructure.
- As you look to carry out your role as AeRIC, I think that you will find that the NCRIS principles, and the Foundation Principles from the Platforms for Collaboration Investment Plan, will prove critical. This is because they provide an excellent framework within which to make recommendations and advice, particularly by ensuring a national approach and looking to maximising the benefits from investments.
- The NCRIS Committee is very interested in the work of AeRIC and we look forward to working with you. We look forward to a positive, productive and ongoing relationship.