



# NCRIS Australian National Data Services (“ANDS”) – proposed CSIRO Involvement

6th June 2007

## Purpose

This paper responds to DEST's email of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2007 requesting those who attended the ANDS workshop on the 29<sup>th</sup> May "to submit a statement of capability/interest in providing, contributing to or using services of ANDS"

### *At a glance.....*

CSIRO is willing to collaborate in/lead a consortium to create ANDS  
CSIRO is a national organisation & is well placed to deliver ANDS Outreach Services  
IM&T is a service oriented organisation (ITIL), capable of "hardening" the ANDS service delivery  
IM&T has a Project Management culture, required to successfully deliver ANDS  
CSIRO is a huge data source and consumer, and is committed to enabling Collaborative Australian Research across its divisions and close partners via its "One CSIRO" policy, its Flagship programs and its eSIM strategy

## ***Our Understanding***

A capability acquisition project for ANDS will draw on the successes, expertise and experiences of the MAPS, ARROW, DART, APSR, and AAF projects. These successful technology inputs will be a critical input to the total project, both initially and as they change/develop over time.

**The project will need to integrate these islands of capability into a "hardened" national service that will survive any initial hiccups to become a widely-used and trusted service for Collaborative Australian Research.**

## ***Our Approach***

The initial ANDS acquisition project (the "build") may not require the "central entity" to pre-exist. In fact the project may play a major part in helping determine the requirements for this central entity, which must be able to sustain the ANDS services. We believe that selecting a "central entity" right now may deflect energies away from the project's success.

CSIRO has operations across the nation. CSIRO comprises separate Divisions who increasingly need to collaborate with each other in order to solve the "Complex Science" problems can only be addressed by a multi-disciplinary approach. Consequently, CSIRO has already embarked on a number of internal programs (eSIM and Foundation) which are NCRIS-like in their objectives – fostering, enabling, supporting collaborative research across communities which are dispersed from both a geographic and a scientific discipline sense. A key enabler for CSIRO has been the adoption of the ITIL framework to ensure a consistent approach to service management and delivery, so that services provided are accessible, affordable and reliable. Early acceptance of ANDS by the research community is critical. Our approach would require a service-oriented outcome from the acquisition project (and introduction of the capability) to underpin this success.

CSIRO IM&T has a mature project management culture, and is well placed to take a leading role in the acquisition project, supported in consortium by the key contributing organisations responsible for AAF, MAPS, ARROW, DART and APSR. We believe the acquisition project must be driven as a formal project because it is too large, complex and important to be approached in a less controlled manner.

ANDS, or an ANDS like service, must succeed for CSIRO – must meet CSIRO's requirements for such a service – in order that CSIRO can realise for Australia the benefits of collaborative research

when dealing with the big problems and with its Flagship programs. This is why CSIRO wishes to play a major role in its acquisition.

### ***Our Proposal***

We propose a round table approach to solving integration problems between the various sub-capabilities in a collaborative way instead of the directive approach that would naturally result from a single management entity. Natural partners in the consortium are emerging, including Macquarie University, Monash University, Australian National University (APSR) and University of Queensland.

We propose a project team reporting through a project board to AERIC and lead by a CSIRO IM&T project manager, supported by a steering committee/project assurance team drawn from the consortium members. A key deliverable of the project would be to recommend an approach to the “central entity”, to manage the operations of the resultant ANDS capability.