



Media Release

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Water, water everywhere... but not a 'tropical' drop to drink!

Australia's leading riverine scientists will be dispelling the myths about tropical river systems and outlining the opportunities and challenges for future water use, during tomorrow's program Wednesday 20 August, at the **Coast to Coast 2008** Conference being held in Darwin this week.

The premier national biennial conference will also discuss how the increasing pressure to develop northern Australia through agricultural production and expanding urban areas will result in water from Australia's tropical rivers being critical to the future development of Australia.

Conference Convenor and Northern Territory Government marine scientist Karen Edyvane said tropical water use would be the key issue being discussed tomorrow, on Day 2 of the conference.

"Leading the Day 2 session at 8.30am will be international plenary speaker, Professor Robert Naiman, from the University of Washington, who will be exploring how a holistic approach to the management of riverine ecosystems is required for sustainability," Professor Edyvane said.

"In the afternoon session at 3.40pm scientists from the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK) project and the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF) will be exploring the connections between catchments, rivers, estuaries and coastal waters in some of Australia's major tropical river systems.

Other highlights for tomorrow's program include:

- Dr Nicole Gurran from the University of Sydney will discuss 'Planning for population growth and change along Australia coasts' at 9.20am.
- Tonia Cook from Deakin University will discuss 'Unravelling the 'sea change' myth in a small Victorian coastal town' at 12.10pm.
- John Amor from CoastCare in Warrnambool will discuss 'The community use of dogs to guard nesting Little Penguin colonies' at 12.10pm.
- Gary Middle from Curtin University will discuss the 'Use of offsets as a way of counterbalancing environmental impacts of coastal and marine developments – experience from the north of WA' at 2.30pm.
- The National Land & Water Resources Audit will hold a workshop on 'Reporting on the 'State of the Environment' – how useful are report cards?' at 3.40pm.

"Tomorrow will also see the most anticipated launch of Australia's first national, 'online' coastal atlas 'OzCoasts' by the National Land and Water Resources Audit and Geoscience Australia."

Conference Convenor and Northern Territory Government marine scientist, Professor Karen Edyvane, said Australia's premier national coastal conference **Coast to Coast** focuses debate, discussion and learning across some of the most challenging and emerging issues facing Australia's coasts today.

Coast to Coast 2008 is being held at the Darwin Convention Centre from 18-22 August 2008.

Media enquiries: Barry Russell on 0401 119 804

Media are welcome to attend

Attachment: *Coast to Coast 2008* Program