

	National Environmental Information Infrastructure Reference Group	Meeting #10 August 24 th 2018
		Minutes
		For Approval

MEETING #10 – MINUTES

Meeting	Meeting #10 – National Environmental Information Infrastructure Reference Group
Chair	Dr. Anthony Rea, General Manager Data Program
Meeting Date	Friday August 24 th
Location	Bureau of Meteorology – Winyu Room, Treasury Building Parkes Place West, Canberra
Time	10.00 to 12.30

MEMBERS

Member	Organisation	Attending
Dr Anthony Rea	Bureau of Meteorology	Chair
Peter Brenton	Atlas of Living Australia	Apology
John D Moore	Australian Bureau of Statistics	Apology
Adrian Burton	Australian Research Data Commons	Member
Cynthia Love	CSIRO	Member
Evert Bleys	Department of Agriculture and Water Resources	Apology
Katrina Philips	Department of the Environment and Energy	Member
Neal Evans	Geoscience Australia	Member
Tim Moltmann	Integrated Marine Observing System	Apology
Michelle Black	Murray Darling Basin Authority	Apology
Ben Evans	National Computational Infrastructure	Member
Jochen Schmidt	NIWA NZ	Member
Siddeswara Guru	Terrestrial Ecosystems Research Network	Member

SECRETARIAT

Representative	Organisation
Andre Zerger	Bureau of Meteorology, Data Services

OBSERVERS

Representative	Organisation
Chantelle Doan	Bureau of Meteorology, Data Services
Vivienne Bordas	Bureau of Meteorology, Data Services
Trent Kershaw	Geoscience Australia

MINUTES

Item 10.1	Opening & introductions
	Dr. Anthony Rea (Chair) welcomed participants attending in person and via the video.
Item 10.2	Minutes from Meeting #09 and actions
Minutes	Approved the minutes as a true and accurate record of the NEII Reference Group meeting #9 held on the 15 th November 2017. Minutes will be made public at www.neii.gov.au . An update was provided on standing action items.
Actions	9.1 The Linked Data Working Group requested to provide a written brief on progress ahead of the next meeting of the reference group (CLOSED) 9.2 GA Digital Earth Australia presentation on progress at the next meeting (CLOSED) 6.3 NEII Programme to continue expansion of the conformance framework to other information types including observations, monitoring sites and controlled vocabularies. (needs to be updated for NEMSR and Vocabularies) Pause on updating the conformance framework (CLOSED)
Item 10.3	NEII – Transition to Business as Usual
	The NEII programme has now delivered into production the core IT components including (a) www.neii.gov.au , (b) metadata catalogue, (c) data services and Viewer, (d) environmental monitoring sites register, and (e) environmental vocabulary service. With the build phase complete the programme will now direct its focus on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data on-boarding expansion• Communications and engagement• Partnering to deliver shared outcomes• Benefits realisation• Development of internal BAU frameworks• Reviewing system architecture
Discussion	Members discussed progress since the inception of the program noting the criticality of maintaining a long term vision supported by one organisation working collectively with a number of partners. Members paid particular attention to the how the program was structured including key resources and

	<p>skills required to delivered a federated information system. The programme team highlighted that a number of the NEII technical achievements were built on earlier environmental informatics investments from partner agencies (e.g. NCRIS). Members suggested that the programme now has significant insight and experience in building such a system and there may be value in documenting these learnings to inform new and emerging programs. Members suggested that communicating these learnings through a journal or conference paper would make the most sense. The program team suggested this could be done in partnerships with reference group members given similar learnings from related infrastructure activities such as ALA, TERN and IMOS. The group agreed to collectively write a paper on these experiences initially targeting a conference but potentially progressing to a journal paper given the potential international interest in the Australian experience.</p>
Recommendations	Noted that the NEII programme is transitioning from a build phase to a business-as-usual model with a new focus.
Action 10.1	NEII program to develop a public communication product that provides an overview of the infrastructure highlighting options for participation, current program focus and key benefits of contributing to the federation.
Action 10.2	The NEII program to lead the development of a joint lessons-learnt paper (conference or journal) around building national environmental information infrastructures in collaboration with interested members.
Item 10.4	NEII – Benefits and analytics – preliminary results
	<p>With the program transitioning away from projects towards business-as-usual, a key element of the future strategy is to better target and measure the benefits emerging from the work completed to-date. This is defined and tracked through the NEII Benefits Realisation Plan noting the programmes priority remains on improving discovery, access and re-use of environmental data. To improve our ability to track system use the team recently completed the NEII analytics project that has delivered an operational capability to track and monitor system use including both data assets registered in the system and how users are interacting with these. In regard to the former, there are now 111 datasets registered as data services available through the Viewer, 27 operational monitoring networks comprising over 5505 sites in the register of environmental monitoring sites, and 19 environmental vocabularies have been published and are available through both the NEII and Research Vocabularies Australia.</p>
Discussion	<p>Members discussed the analytics presented to the group and examined the challenges for collecting such data in a federated system. It was noted that absolute metrics may be of limited value without benchmarked data from other systems or capabilities. NEII analytics will become more useful with future reports as this will provide a sense of trend with regard to system use. Members noted that Google Analytics are the most common approach for measuring product use and pattern in their organisations.</p>
Action 10.3	The NEII program to table analytics reports to future meetings of the reference group.
Item 10.5	Digital Earth Australia – Geoscience Australia
	<p>Geoscience Australia provided a member update regarding the Digital Earth Australia program given the recent announcement of ongoing funding to further develop and support the infrastructure. Digital Earth Australia is an analysis platform for earth observation data. It draws on over 30 years of data from the world's best satellite imagery and allows the user to readily interrogate this information. In this phase of the program Geoscience Australia</p>

	are leading a number of projects framed around specific use-cases with partner's agencies including MDBA, Bureau of Meteorology and the Department of the Environment and Energy to name only a few. Further information is available at http://www.ga.gov.au/dea and the presentation is available through the NEII programme at dataservices@bom.gov.au
Item 10.6	Reference Group – Terms of Reference Review
	Members will review the updated terms of reference out of session providing any feedback to the program by September 7 th .
Action 10.4	Members to provide corrections or suggested improved draft TORS to the programme team by September 7 th .
10.7	AGLDWG update through Nick Car
	Paper 10.6 provided for members information
10.8	Member updates (by exception)
	<p>ANDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently underwent a name change to Australian Research Data Commons. A new organisation that will require a new board etc. • Transformed capability providing a system-wide focus with funding assured for 10 years hence providing more of a long-term view. <p>GA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Citizen Science – Can Citizens deliver and make a difference? Presented by Martin Brocklehurst. CSIRO Discover Theatre, 11th September.
10.9	Other business & next meeting
	Next meeting to be held in December 2018