



**AELERT**

A network for environmental regulators  
across Australasia



## STEERING COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUÉ

Meeting Communique #35

Melbourne, Victoria

Friday 8 April 2016

## 1. MEMBER UPDATE

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The Steering Committee was pleased to welcome two new international agencies to AELERT. Full membership, on a *pro bono* basis, was granted to the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology. The Ministry is the first Australasian agency outside of New Zealand and Australia to join AELERT, strengthening the network's connectivity within the region. Affiliate membership was also granted to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment. The Ministry manages the Province of Saskatchewan's diverse landscapes and renewable natural resources in a manner that supports a healthy environment, a growing economy and strong, vibrant communities. The Canadian agency is AELERT's first member outside of Australasia, introducing a range of opportunities for international collaboration.

## 2. WEBSITE UPDATE

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The Steering Committee was advised that the new AELERT website was achieved under budget. It was recommended that the under-spend be used to add a further interactive section on the Modern Regulator Improvement Tool to the site.

AELERT's web developers are busy working on the Toolkit and it should be available on the website very soon so keep an eye out for it!

## 3. UPCOMING WEBINARS

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The Steering Committee was pleased to note the success of the Investigative Interviewing webinar and received recommendations on a range of operational and strategic themes for future webinars.

The committee determined that the next two webinars will cover:

1. The behavioural science behind offending; and
2. Communications and Engagement – with a focus on the work being undertaken by the Communications and Engagement Working Group.

Members who have recommendations for future webinar topics or information or who would like to contribute to current webinar topics are encouraged to contact the AELERT Secretariat at [secretariat@aelert.net](mailto:secretariat@aelert.net)

## 4. TECHNOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE

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The Steering Committee was informed of the high level of member interest in the subject of technology and surveillance.

The committee resolved that a working group would be formed to lead the development and distribution of a survey seeking to determine current technology in use across the membership, as well as research future technology advances. The surveys will be hitting your inbox later this year.

It was further agreed that 'Technology' will be a stream at the next AELERT conference.

## 5. CLUSTER UPDATE

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The Steering Committee noted the Cluster reports received by the Better Regulation Cluster, Legal Practice Cluster, Forestry Compliance and Enforcement Working Group and the Emergency Operations Cluster.

The committee acknowledged the excellent work being produced by the Clusters and thanked them for efforts.

### **5.1. Forestry and Compliance Cluster Report**

The Committee agreed that the Forestry and Compliance Cluster should hold an annual meeting and indicated their support by providing teleconferencing facilities.

Recently the working group held its first in a series of online seminars which focussed on the regulation of arboreal habitat in native forests in NSW. The next seminar in the series will look into how forestry regulators deal with the public side of regulation and how to deal with public outrage. Future seminars will be presented in the coming months and offered to members through the AELERT website.

### **5.2. Operations Cluster**

The Steering Committee considered the future direction of the cluster.

The committee agreed that a feasible solution for the management of the cluster was to create an 'Operations Portfolio', comprising of subject-specific working groups.

The formation of additional working groups was also encouraged by the Steering Committee. Working group suggestions proposed by members in response to the AELERT 2016 membership survey include:

1. Fisheries and agriculture.
2. Technology – to research, trial and promote innovative technological advances.

The committee agreed that chairs of the working groups created under the Operations Portfolio would need to collaborate and report back to the committee.

It was resolved that the Commonwealth would lead in the creation of the Operations Portfolio.

### **5.3. Communications and Engagement Working Group**

Since the last Steering Committee meeting in October 2015, the establishment of the Communications and Engagement group has progressed. The Steering Committee approved the Communications and Engagement Working Group proposal to create a practical diagnostic communications tool.

This risk communication toolkit will allow members to identify the type of risk communication that is appropriate to their situation. The toolkit will draw on a range of existing resources and will provide hints and tips for agencies wishing to improve their communications performance.

Once the Toolkit has been finalised it will be made available to members on the AELERT website.

## **6. NEXT MEETING**

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The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for 4 August 2016. Items for inclusion on the agenda should be forwarded to the AELERT Secretariat by 21 July 2016.

## ABOUT THE AELERT STEERING COMMITTEE

The AELERT Steering Committee comprises representatives from the government in all AELERT jurisdictions: Australia, Commonwealth, each State/Territory and New Zealand. Four office holders also sit on the Committee: Chair, Vice-Chair and two Directors.

<b>AELERT ROLE</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>
<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>TONY CIRCELLI</b> EPA SA
<b>VICE CHAIR AND NSW JURISDICTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>MARK GIFFORD</b> EPA NSW
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>CHRIS WEBB</b> EPA VIC
<b>DIRECTOR AND COMMONWEALTH JURISDICTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>SHANE GADDES</b> EPA VIC
<b>QLD JURISDICTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>GLEN BROWN</b> DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION
<b>ACT JURISDICTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>DANIEL WALTERS</b> EPA ACT
<b>TAS JURISDICTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>WES FORD</b> DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
<b>SA JURISDICTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>ANDREW WOOD</b> EPA SA
<b>WA JURISDICTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>GERMAINE HEALY</b> DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT REGULATION
<b>NT JURISDICTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>PETER VASEL</b> EPA NT
<b>VIC JURISDICTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>RICHARD MARKS</b> EPA VIC
<b>NZ JURISDICTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>ANDREA ENG</b> EPA NZ

The Steering Committee meets formally three times a year to discuss the strategic direction of AELERT, cluster projects and AELERT member needs as well as issues facing the environmental regulatory community.