

AAF - enabling government collaboration

Broadening AAF access to include Local Governments, Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups and Not-For-Profit (NFP) organisations.

Local Governments, Regional NRM groups and various not-for-profit organisations have been charged with activities such as:

- ▶ developing regional ecological corridor planning
- ▶ undertaking revegetation projects
- ▶ governing conservation incentives, natural resource asset management planning and development applications, offsets and handovers.

More recently they have been challenged to incorporate climate change adaptation policies and planning tools into their decision making protocols.

The challenge for Logan City Council is how to deliver these objectives without external support, skills and expertise provided by the primary research institutes involved in addressing these tasks.

Griffith University is currently working with these stakeholders to showcase the use of the **Biodiversity and Climate Change Virtual Laboratory** as a tool to help them make informed decisions. Each new client however, must be manually provided with an access code if they are not already associated with a tertiary research institute.

Griffith University and Logan City Council have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provides a foundation for each institution to work together in collaborative programs that have mutual benefit.

Through this MOU the Logan City Council's Environment and Sustainability Branch and eResearch Griffith University (Biodiversity and Climate Change Virtual Laboratory) have hosted a series of meetings and workshops to identify areas of collaboration. The areas identified include:

- ▶ data management and modelling expertise
- ▶ climate change adaptation planning off-set mechanisms
- ▶ corridor planning and enhanced valuation of environmental assets
- ▶ which includes social, health, economic as well as environmental attributes.

These areas are of mutual interest to Logan City Council and Griffith University. Griffith University and its partners have significant expertise and research capability in environmental planning, climate change adaptation, river systems, tourism, business and data management and advanced modelling.

In addition to this MOU arrangement, Griffith University has also engaged with:

- ▶ Ipswich City Council
- ▶ Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- ▶ SEQ Catchments.

Preliminary discussions with these organisations has confirmed that while each stakeholder has differing levels of need, the ability to access, download, and utilise federal, state and local research tools is pivotal to their desire to further create a base where they can make informed decisions which are critical to their operations.



Description

Through consultation with stakeholders, it has been identified that there are significant research and modelling capability gaps for these stakeholders to accurately and systematically value environmental, social and health attributes of environmental resources within their boundaries.

Being able to accurately predict and incorporate higher resolution data, valuation methods and modelling capability to city wide planning is needed to ensure Logan City is able to remain an attractive and viable city for current and future residents.

Accessing secured data, the tools to analyse this data and the ability to share outputs from experiments securely, is of paramount importance for the future of these projects and others like them.

The ability of local, state and federal government entities, regional NRM bodies and not-for-profit organisations to have access to information secured by the Australian Access Federation would help to break down the silos between policy makers and scientific researchers.

Goals

Extending AAF access to these entities would:

1. Enable local government to access/connect/view datasets that are relevant to their operational objectives.
2. Enable local governments to share their internal research reports with tertiary institutions.
3. Enable and promote access to and connection with specialist research services.
4. Streamline the incorporation of evidence based research information into policy, procedural and supporting documentation to enhance informed decision making at a local and regional scale.

Who benefits from AAF connectivity?

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| Tertiary Research Institutes | Researchers who would have their work utilised in real world scenarios. |
| NRM Regional Bodies | Technical officers, town planners, research program officers, on ground project delivery officers. |
| Local Governments | Technical officers, strategic planners, policy makers, decision makers. |

Information:

For more information contact:

QCIF | www.qcif.edu.au |

eResearch Griffith University | www.griffith.edu.au |

Contact the Australian Access Federation:

To discuss federated identity management contact:

enquiries@aaf.edu.au | aaf.edu.au