STRENGTHENING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CAPACITY IN THE TERRITORY

Schedule 1.3

Issues

• Avoidance of duplication of costly scientific infrastructure between University and Government and maximising the use of scientific infrastructure.

• The need to increase the level of Commonwealth funding for research activity in the NT by ensuring Territory expenditure on research is linked with the University as far as possible. The NT Government can leverage Commonwealth funding by administering research funding through the University.

• The need to increase the level of scientific expertise, create critical mass for research professionals and reduce the perceived isolation of some research professionals. This will assist in building the necessary resident capacity across a range of scientific disciplines.

• The need to provide highest standards of local analytical sciences services that will inform environmental monitoring and management services for major infrastructure developments.

Goal

To engender collaboration in research between the Government and the University such that full capacity development, financial and scientific research benefits are realised in the Territory’s best interests.

Strategies

The parties agree the strategies they will employ are:

• Identify and address barriers to an improved relationship between NT scientific providers and the University.

• Review and identify appropriate monitoring tools (both biological and chemical) of relevance to Territory agencies and projects and identify existing capability and gaps in expertise.

• Develop research collaboration in science between the Government and the University such that full capacity development, financial and research benefits are realised in the Territory’s best interests, whilst accommodating Intellectual Property issues. Approaches may include but not be limited to:
  o Joint appointments or secondments of research staff,
  o Adjunct University positions for government researchers, and
  o Where appropriate ensure that government research expenditure, including the Research and Innovation Fund, is applied in a manner that lever Commonwealth research and infrastructure support.

Performance Indicators

The parties agree the indicators to be used are:

• Increase the number of ARC Linkage grant applications and other joint research grants to commonwealth and other sources.

• Increase in amount of Commonwealth research infrastructure leverage.

• Establishment of BIOSCIENCE North Australia.

• Establishment of Tropical Mining Futures program.