ACHIEVING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GAIN FROM DESERT KNOWLEDGE

Schedule 2.7
Under revision March 2004

ISSUES

The parties agree the key issues to be addressed are:

- The health, well-being, ecologically sustainable economic development and improved livelihoods of all communities in desert and arid lands are of essential importance to Territory development and there is a need to support and increase the scientific and technological research which will achieve these objectives

- Creation of a research environment in Central Australia which will build the critical mass of researchers in the Northern Territory and strategically focus research in identified areas of competitive advantage to build desert knowledge capital

- Positioning of the University nationally and internationally as a pre-eminent tertiary institution for the teaching and research of subjects in desert knowledge, being the lead university in academic research nationally and internationally, to identify and focus the Territory’s comparative advantages and niche areas for marketing

- Putting in place processes and mechanisms to derive benefits from desert knowledge research, balancing the requirements for public good and commercially oriented research

STRATEGIES

The parties agree the strategies they will employ are:

- Represent Territory interests strongly and collaboratively in the full range of desert knowledge initiatives to maximise the outcomes for desert research and innovation

- Expand teaching and research expertise in identified areas of Desert Knowledge:
  - Natural resource management;
- Viable communities; and
- Governance

- Supply education and training opportunities over a distributed network utilising the full potential of information and communication technologies, in cooperation with other service delivery agencies
- Appoint a senior academic to lead the University's role in desert knowledge activities
- Cooperate in the identification and implementation of research by the University to meet Territory development needs in Desert Knowledge

**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

_The parties agree the performance indicators to be used are:_

- The number of partnerships entered into between the Government, the University and private sector
- The degree to which Desert Knowledge research contributes to public policy in the Territory
- The number of undergraduate courses and post-graduate research scholars engaged in studies in desert knowledge research
- The number of academic support staff located in Central Australia
- The number of research grants and level of expenditure on desert knowledge research in the Territory