



MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Macquarie-Ryde Futures Partnership

Progress Report June Quarter 2012

This is the second quarterly report of the Macquarie-Ryde Futures Partnership. It reports on the period March-June 2010.

Meetings

Steering Group: The inaugural meeting of the MRFP Steering Committee was hosted at Macquarie University on March 20. This meeting confirmed the terms of reference for the Steering Group, but decided that the approval of projects was not appropriate as an element of the ToR. It was agreed to review the progress of the partnership and the MOU in December 2012 rather than June. Next meeting is scheduled June 19.

PACE: Council hosted members of the PACE team on 15 May. Each of the Council's four service teams (Group Managers and Managers of Corporate Services, Community Life, Environment & Planning, Public Works) met with members of the PACE TEAM (Deputy Director, Faculty Participation Managers, Academic Directors etc). The meetings introduced council staff to the principles and process of PACE and initiated discussion of potential PACE opportunities within Council programs and activities.

The meeting identified 51 distinct projects identified as worth exploring. MRFP is working with PACE to prioritise Session 2 opportunities, and will schedule planning and development meetings in Session 2 to develop other projects for Session 3 and Session 1, 2013. I am working with Jane Worthy, Valentine Murkuria, Katerina Hall and Nicole Yeates to offer a workshop at Council to prepare project briefs for Session 2 projects. These will commence this week.

Macquarie Property: The Director MRFP, is having bi-monthly update meetings with Gavin Carrier, Development Director, Macquarie Property to ensure there is transfer of current information on activities and possible projects.

Council Work Groups:

Information Systems – I met with Mei Ling Chu and Lindsay Mason from Council's Information Systems group on April 2 with Dr Michael Chang (E&G) to explore prospects for projects utilising Dr Chang's GIS expertise and linking GIS students to Council projects. Discussions have progressed to consider development of Council's GPIMS (Geospatial Program Integration Management System) and RAAMS (Remote Aerial Asset Management System) projects in collaboration with Dr Chang and PACE. Two Council staff (Austin Morris and Bishara Al Kawam) are preparing applications to undertake some of this work as PhD students at Macquarie University with full support from Council and Dr Chang.

Public Works (Waste to Energy) – I have had several meetings with Council staff, Macquarie Property staff and researchers following up on a commissioned research report on prospective technology for waste-to-energy transfer at the domestic scale. This has been a highly productive program.

Researchers Professor Graham Town and Dr Vlad Strezov have produced an initial report, and we re well-advanced in discussing submission of an ARC Linkage application (September 2012) and we are currently actively exploring collaboration (either within the ARC LP framework or separately) with two industry partners on two aspects of this work.

Early in this project, we identified prospects for development of a Council site at Porters Creek, Macquarie Park as a site for development under the University's supervision for environmental research in the public interest. This possibility is now under active discussion with Macquarie Property.

Public Works (Personal Mobility Device Trial Research) – I have also had several meetings with Council staff and others on the topic of transport issues in Macquarie Park, particularly regarding Council's priority project for developing a research trial of PMDs. This work is progressing well. Council has appointed Ms Monica Zarafu as a full-time project manager for this work, and we are discussing her enrolment in a PhD program to undertake some aspects of this work. We are also developing a Transport Research Group within the university (Robyn Dowling, Kristian Ruming, Richie Howitt from Environment & Geography; Peter Rogers from Sociology, Catherine Simpson from Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies, and Darryl Hull from Workforce Futures in Marketing and Management) and will be commencing the projects with Council funding in Session 2 and exploring external funding possibilities into the future, including discussions with Optus to include the Optus campus in any research trials undertaken.

Corporate Services (Community Engagement) – I have met with Council staff to progress social and market research on the Community of Interest Network (COIN) project, which is being led by Dr Jana Bowden-Everson in Marketing & Management.

Macquarie Researchers and Others

Macquarie University Gallery – I met with Gallery Curator Rhonda Davis to discuss possibilities for connections with Council in early May. This was followed up with meeting between Rhonda and Paul Graham (Cultural Officer) from Council. We are exploring a number of possible areas of cooperation.

Executive Deans and Associate Deans Research – I have met, or arranged meetings with Deans and ADRs in all four faculties in order to introduce the MRFP and its opportunities to each of the Faculties and to learn of specific concerns, strategic priorities and opportunities linked to each, and opportunities to develop cross-Faculty and inter-disciplinary links.

Climate Futures – I have met with Dr Peter Rogers, Co-Director, Climate Futures CORE, to discuss areas in which links with Council might develop. Peter and Climate Futures member Dr Fiona Miller (Environment & Geography) are keen to deliver seminars to Council staff to explore possibilities for collaboration on risk, heat stress, water allocation and other matters. Peter and I also met with Sam Cappelli and Jenai Davies this week to discuss cooperation.

Sponsored Research Team – I met with Ann-Marie Heinrich and others in the Sponsored Research Team and we have formalised my involvement as a reader of all applications for Enterprise Partnerships Scheme funding involving Ryde Council, and identified that scheme as the appropriate mechanism for allocating the funds committed by Macquarie University in the MOU with City of Ryde.

Third Party Meetings:

Centre for Designing Better Cities – DVCR and I met with Darren Bilsborough regarding progress on this project, for which Mr Bilsborough had been supported by UTS and Curtin University in Perth. Progress on financial commitments for the Macquarie Park demonstrator site has been slow, with no funds yet committed. I am currently awaiting DVCR decision on continued support for this as a three-way collaboration. Subsequently I have also met with Nick Chapman (UTS) to discuss development of a range of bi-lateral research projects between UTS and MQ researchers to advance relations and credibility with potential funding partners in Macquarie Park.



Progress Overview (by project)

	Project	MQ Depts	\$	Status 20/3/12
✓	1. COIN – Social Data	Marketing & Management	\$32K (Ryde) \$32K (MQ)	Project underway with joint Council-MQ funding. Enterprise Partnership Grant Approved. Ehtics application approved. Legal contract currently being finalised.
✓	2. Waste to Energy	Env & Geog, Elec Eng	\$50,000	Project report submitted. Extension to ARC LP or alternative under active consideration for development of domestic scale demonstration. Discussions with Macquarie Property and CoR regarding incorporation into Y1A demonstrator site proposals for Sustainability@MQ. Discussion of possibilities for other projects at the whole of site and whole of Macquarie Park scale have occurred, including consideration of links to Porters Creek site. Council has prepared project briefs for further discussion.
~	3. Workforce Plan	Marketing & Management, Env & Geog	\$20,000	Consultant from E&G provided some support and Council progressed report internally. Need to ensure early meeting with Workforce Futures proceeds to secure engagement with Workforce Futures, Demography and E&G for next reporting round.
~	4. Macquarie Park Transport Issues (PMD Trial)	LTC, Env & Geog, MMCCS, Access MQ	TBD	Council has employed a consultant (Monica Zarafu) whose Masters thesis (UTS) addressed many issues of direct relevance. Meeting between Council (Public Works and Environment & Planning staff) with potential researchers (including Dowling, Simpson and Hull [FBE/TALC] to progress towards project proposal(s). Recognition of this as a complex set of projects requiring some engagement from outside (eg UTS) and significant external funding (see also #6 below). Council to produce scope of project briefing papers by mid-June for further discussions.
✓	5. Review of Public Affairs Unit	AccessMQ	\$35,000	Completed and report accepted by CoR. Awaiting finalisation of payment for consultant (Daryl Karp)
~	6. Centre for Designing Better Cities	Property, Env & Geog, DVC-R; UTS. CoR GM	TBD	Met with DVC-R and UTS consultant (Darren Bilsborough) for progress report from Bilsborough. Report confirmed prospects for proceeding with the Pilbara Demonstrator Site with WA Government and industry funds, but lack of confirmed commitment in Macquarie Park Demonstrator Site.

Funding and longer term planning:

Allocation of research funds: The first formal request for allocation of research funds committed by the University in the MOU was received from Dr Bowden-Everson (Marketing & Management) as an Enterprise Partnerships Scheme application. DVC-R agreed that this was an appropriate mechanism for considering applications for funds under the MRFP. Director prepared a supporting review for Research Office. A meeting with Manager, Sponsored Research Team and Business Development Managers for Faculty of Arts and Science has been scheduled.



Website for MRFP: no progress towards development of a web presence for MRFP has been made beyond confirming support will be available from Marketing & PR once content has been prepared. This will be a priority for third quarter activities.

In response to the learning arising from this situation, I propose that I seek to raise the profile of the MRFP by meeting with each of the Executive Deans and as many Department Heads as I am able to in coming months, and advancing development of a web site to provide overview information about the partnership.

Communications: Mayor's discussion of City of Ryde's partnership with the University published as a guest blog on the VC's Blog. see:

[<http://vc.mq.edu.au/2012/05/03/council-and-university-working-together-for-the-good-of-the-local-community>]

Institute of Australian Geographers Conference, July 2. The Council has provided sponsorship support and the Mayor will speak at the opening plenary session.

Environment Day Activities: I spoke at the **Council's Environment Day** seminar on green jobs, hosted on campus in The Atrium. This was a successful activity with engagement from Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE and Epping Boys High School as well as good participation from MQ students, I also attended the **Environment Day activities at Ryde Secondary College** and provided an activity to students representing the University.

Unplanned and additional activities:

During this quarter, I have maintained progress as a Chief Investigator on two ARC Projects (ARC LP0882152 Community spirit, social transformation, sustainable partnerships; ARC DP110101721 Social conditions of Aboriginal people in rural NSW). In the ARC LP the postdoctoral fellow in the project has taken up a contract at Murdoch University and I will take on a lead role in managing project completion. I continue supervising HDR students (5 x PhD as principle; 1 submission this session) and two students HGEO810 in a project involving evaluation of the Mt Druiitt Community & Environment Project (a collaboration between community partners, UWS, UTS, NSW Housing and Mission Australia – draft final report submitted). I completed three HDR supervision training sessions this session. I am organising IAG2012, the annual conference of the Institute of Australian Geographers, chairing the Science Sub-Committee of the University Human Research Ethics Committee and participating in the Faculty of Science Research Committee.

Within Environment & Geography (and nationally in the geography discipline) I continue to provide formal and informal mentoring (in this quarter, 2 x VCIF applications, 2 x MQRF, 2 x applications, 2 x OSP applications, 1 x visiting researcher).

I also submitted an application for support from PACE funds for an activity related to developing PACE links, but this was unsuccessful and has been revised for resubmission in July.

I was involved in encouraging development of other PACE-related applications (Sociology, E&G/Sustainability BPlan) and a L&T Project (environmental footprinting – with Sustainability). The latter was funded. The BPlan proposal did not proceed in this round.

I was on annual leave for 3 weeks in April visiting Kyoto in Japan.



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20.06.2012