

1. **ACERA Project No.:** 06 / 07
2. **Project Title:** Evaluation and development of formal consensus methods
3. **Theme:** Communication and decision making
4. **Rationale:** Judgements of members of an expert committee or stakeholders are required to arrive at a single, consensual decision. In practice, genuine consensus is rare, but there are ways to facilitate such consensus via formal (mathematical) methods. This project will review existing methods and test them against one another and against desired outcomes. It will explore scenarios provided by DAFF, to give it an appropriate focus. Subsequently, the PIs will synthesise their findings into a set of recommendations for methods to achieve consensus that are effective in a range of settings.
5. **Outputs:** This project will provide a thorough survey and evaluation of technical methods for achieving consensus among experts and among stakeholders, a survey and assessment of software options for implementing them, case studies relevant to DAFF that demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses or alternatives, a report on the outputs of a working group that tests the utility of alternatives, new methods that solve problems associated with existing approaches, and / or guidelines to support their implementation. The project will offer training workshops for DAFF staff, towards the end of the project, to enhance adoption of the methods.
6. **Time frame:** Commencing: *July 2006*, Finishing: *June, 2009*

**7. Project Leader(s):**

Title	Name	Organisation
Prof	Mark Colyvan	U of Sydney
Prof	Helen Regan	San Diego State University

**8. Resources**

	06/07	07/08	08/09
<i>Salaries and stipends</i>	76,000	78,000	81,000
<i>Travel</i>	25,000	25,000	25,000
<i>Operating, capital and project management</i>	14,000	11,000	11,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>	<b>\$114,000</b>	<b>\$117,000</b>

9. **End Users:** AQIS, BA, PIAPH, AusBioSec, AHA, PHA