

1. **ACERA Project No.:** 06 / 11
2. **Project Title:** Eliciting reliable expert judgements
3. **Theme:** Elicitation
4. **Rationale:** Biosecurity risk assessments use expert judgements routinely to estimate the structure of ecological systems and the probabilities for exposure pathways and related areas of reasoning. It is well established that experts may be susceptible to context, framing and motivational biases. Structured questions that make use of developments in cognitive psychology and applied statistics may do a better job of eliciting answers from experts reliably, removing some arbitrary uncertainties, improving the quality of risk analyses and the trust stakeholders have in the process.
5. **Outputs:** The project will review and report on approaches currently used to elicit probabilities, variables and model structures, create sets of forecasts, retrospective data and hypothetical data based on simulations, data that will be used to test expert judgements of values, develop a range of approaches to eliciting model structures and parameters, evaluate the abilities of a range of experts, students and lay people to judge relative and absolute risks, conditional and marginal probabilities, and model structures. The project will provide detailed guidelines for eliciting values and structures from experts that will make best use of framing, context, behavioural and numerical techniques, to arrive at the best possible expert assessment.
6. **Time frame:** Commencing: *January 2007*, Finishing: *June 2009*

7. Project Leader(s):

Title	Name	Organisation
Prof	Mark Burgman	U of Melbourne
Dr	Fiona Fidler	U of Melbourne
Dr	Terry Walshe	U of Melbourne

8. Resources

	06/07	07/08	08/09
<i>Salaries and stipends</i>	66,000	134,000	138,000
<i>Travel</i>	44,000	16,000	16,000
<i>Operating and capital</i>	25,500	37,000	38,000
Project Total	\$135,500	\$187,000	\$194,000

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