

ACERA Project 0803

1. **Project Title:** Tools to assist long term and strategic pest management: deliberative methods for assessing utilities
2. **Theme:** Communication
3. **Rationale:**

Australia has some of the most unique species of plants and animals in the world that for various reasons, including its geographic isolation, have escaped the threats of introduced diseases or predator species that could wipe them out. Over the years, and for various reasons these threats have increased and the ability to manage them have also been associated with increasing efforts and costs. Currently several long-term national response programs are entering a phase where decisions must be made on ongoing investments including three national weed programs, European House Borer, Red Imported Fire Ant and Electric Ant.

The decision of whether to continue with current efforts to eradicate these organisms must be considered along with alternative management strategies (such as maintaining a steady state population, as well as a “do nothing” approach to ensure the greatest returns to investment are being made. The costs of such programs however must be assessed and weighed up against the benefits of carrying out the program. Some of the costs (for example, the eradication of an entire native species) and benefits (the aesthetics of a pristine ecosystem) may be difficult to measure in dollar terms.

This research project aims to test a participatory decision-aiding technique to prioritize alternative management strategies on the basis of agricultural, environmental, social and cultural impacts and priorities associated with proposed strategies. While agricultural values are relatively easy to express, “non-market” impacts such as environmental damage, damage to culturally significant assets, and/or highly ‘visible’ and politically significant damages are more difficult to capture.

4. **Outputs:** recommendations for the implementation of improved participatory techniques, and reports providing guidance and technical details.
5. **Time frame:** Commencing 1 January 2008: finishing 30 June 2009
6. **Project leader(s)**

Title	First name	Surname	Location	Organisation	% Time per year
Dr	David	Cook	Canberra	CSIRO	15%
Dr	Wendy	Proctor	Canberra	CSIRO	15%

7. **Resources**

Financial years of requested funding	06/07	07/08	08/09
Salaries and stipends			
- Cook, David Charles (15% for 78 wks)		\$19,719	\$9,859
- Proctor, Wendy Louise (15% for 78 wks)		\$19,719	\$9,859
- Liu, Shuang (10% for 78 wks)		\$9,344	\$4,672
Travel			
- Interstate travel		\$8,000	\$2,000
Operating and capital			
- Production of Final Report		\$0	\$2,000
- Workshop Expenses		\$5,000	\$0
Project Total		\$61,782	\$28,390

B. Funds obtained from other sources for this project
(Participant, Industry or Third Party support (cash or in-kind))

Financial years of requested funding	06/07	07/08	08/09
Salaries		\$44,759	\$22,379
Travel			
Operating			
Total		\$44,759	\$22,379

8. **End Users:** all DAFF Divisions