

End User Involvement in Fire Weather Research

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Introduction

- **User involvement in research**
 - Research users
 - What is user involvement
 - Value of user involvement
 - When and how user can involve in research
- **Why do users involve in research**
 - **Research outcome is useful for end user**
 - » economic return, welfare improvement

Fire Weather Research

- **Provides information for end users**
- **Information generates economic value when it affects decisions**
- **End users will be interested in fire weather research if information is valuable to them**
- **Weather information “PUBLIC GOOD” & no formal market operates (*but many exceptions*)**
- **How do we measure the VALUE?**

Valuing Fire Weather Information

- **Pricing techniques** (Bateman et al 2003)
 - value of the economic, social & environmental outcome arises from the use of fire weather information
 - i.e. value saved from bush fire damage with the help of improved forecast of fire weather
- **Valuation method**
 - based on preferences and choices
 - measured the value of *A* in terms of amount of *B* willing to give up (**trade off**)
 - generate neo-classical welfare measures
- **Stated preference methods. - Contingent Valuation**
 - can be used to estimate total economic value/user value
 - time and resource requirement is high

End users of fire weather research

- **Hazard Community**
 - Fire management agencies i.e. CFA
 - Emergency management agencies i.e. EMA
 - Local governments
 - Community organisations
- **Economic Sector**
 - Agriculture & Forestry
 - Energy & Transport
 - Tourism and recreation
 - Event organiser
- **Other**
 - Media organisation
 - General publics

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Possibilities for end user involvement

- **End users who gain high economic value**
 - extreme weather event can produce high economic impacts so end users may have higher willingness to pay
 - i.e. event organiser may be interested for precise forecast
 - i.e. fuel reduction burn program
- **Complementary users of research output**
 - Economy of scale in research
 - » possibility of sharing the research cost
 - Already established professional networks/ work relationships

REACHING end users ?

- **Identify how end users utilise weather information in their work**
- **Meet end user needs**
 - match the research output with end user needs
- **Assist to use research output more effectively**
 - user friendly provision of research output
 - training for users on the use of information

Mechanism for end user involvement

- **End user groups for research project**
- **Focus group discussions**
- **Collaborative research programs**
 - Helps to design research that meets user needs
- **Prioritise research agenda to meet common needs or organisations**
- **.....**

Thank You !