

**Workshop: Kilometres of fencing?
The challenge of measuring outputs and outcomes for coastal and
marine resources**

**Tuesday, 18th September
3.55pm – 4.25pm
Main Hall, Anglican Church**

Facilitator: Michelle Walker, Michelle Walker & Associates

Background

High level of investment at local, regional and broader scales has occurred in recent years with the goal of improving the condition of coastal and marine resources. However, the challenge of measuring what is achieved by these investments continues to plague resource managers across the range of sectors involved.

As resource managers (or members of groups assisting others to manage coastal and marine areas), how do we track the impact of 150km of riparian fencing or 200 landholders completing a coastal land management workshop on the biodiversity of our inshore reefs? Or quality of the water reaching the marine environment from the catchment?

The need to tell these stories of what impact our actions are having has seen a rise in the need for sound monitoring, evaluation and reporting cycles. The purpose of monitoring, evaluation and reporting is several fold, including to:

- Track and report on trends in condition of the resources
- Demonstrate the contribution of activities/projects to the improvement of resource conditions
- Provide accountability data to investors and the general community.

In this workshop...

We will discuss:

- The range of approaches to monitoring, evaluation and reporting that is currently underway
- What have been some of the successful stories?
- What have people learnt from doing monitoring, evaluation and reporting?
- How has the lack of data regarding resource condition been overcome?
- What aspects of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting cycle need further effort to develop/progress?

<p>What was discussed (please list the main dot points such as identified issues or threats)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus of the workshop is on what are we doing measuring fencing when we want outcomes? • Monitoring Evaluation Reporting and Improvement (MERI) useful for identifying outcomes – • Attitudinal change measured by communicating stories, or the number of people involved in doing the work, attending meetings and photo monitoring are also useful measuring tools • How many people are actually engaging with us? • There is an assumption that Fencing leads to on ground change but stories from land managers would be effective in capturing this change • Capturing traditional knowledge is done through stories in Cape York where they also map the location and story and pictures of the country – interactive stories to pass on knowledge from elders • Qualitative and quantitative performance measures are both important – e.g. water quality monitoring is easy but attitudinal change is more challenging • The State Facilitator network use the MERI framework and performance stories • Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (RWQPP) has had challenges with the political nature of funding. It is a minimum ten year plan but they are working in 3 year election cycles, and effort is given to reassure investors by monitoring indicators of what may happen in 10 years time to show progress towards implementing change • Continuity of programmes and funding is required for NRM • There is a need to document wins with case studies or milestones wins to record progress towards outcomes 	
<p>Suggested follow-up actions</p>	<p>Action</p>	<p>Who will undertake this action?</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>Distribute the details of MERI framework, programme logic and performance stories to anyone who wanted it</p>	<p>Michelle Walker</p>