



# Closing session

Ravi Naidu – CRC CARE, Peter Nadebaum - ALGA

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# The ICCL meeting

Peter Nadebaum ALGA, GHD

Ravi Naidu CRC CARE



# Key matter



- ◆ The fact that the ICCL meeting took place!
  - Representatives of international regulatory agencies have met in Australia and our regulators have had an opportunity to meet with them, hear of the situation elsewhere and the direction of policy, and to form networks
  - Thanks to ALGA and CRC CARE for funding and assisting in organisation, and to the organising committee
  - Australia has a vibrant professional community - associations, research, conferences, seminars, courses – much can be attributed to CRC CARE and the critical mass of funding attracted over a decade

# Particular thanks



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Dominique

# Particular thanks



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Joerg Frauenstein

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Mitzi Bolton EPA Victoria



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Mitzi



Niall Johnston EPA  
NSW

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John Hunt ALGA



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John



Prashant CRC  
CARE

# Particular thanks



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Joerg



Mitzi



Niall



Paul Nathanail



John



Prashant



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- ◆ A few matters that stand out of importance to Australia

# Knowledge and management of sites



- ◆ Some countries
  - Have undertaken a comprehensive identification of sites
  - Identified high risk sites, undertaking a program to clean up these sites – **now can claim largely finished? Wake up call?**
  - High risk sites are only a small proportion of total number of sites
  - Regulatory and policy issue – what constitutes a “high risk” site

⇒ **how do we formulate policy that some exceedences of precautionary standards/guidelines represent a low risk and hence clean up can be delayed or not take place?**

# There is an evolution in regulation



- ◆ Policy is not stagnant – it is evolving to reflect knowledge and understanding, and world issues – such as GFC, climate change and global warming:
  - Growing Awareness of the problem
  - Complete Removal
  - Risk Based Land Management
  - **Risk Informed and Sustainable Remediation**
  
- ◆ Some countries proceeding further: sustainable management and use of the subsurface (*cf* at the land surface)

# Sustainable risk based remediation



- ◆ Encouraged by SuRF, NICOLE, Common Forum, ICCL, various conferences, ALGA, various champions
  - Now general acceptance of the concept
- ◆ Various views on what it means and scope
  - Sustainable Remediation, Green Remediation, Sustainable Development, Ecological Sustainable Development
  - No problem – depends on the regulatory agency and policy – what is mandatory/determined by the agency, and what by the proponent
  - Some jurisdictions promote their view – healthy debate

**Important for Australia – developing a National Remediation Framework**



# Brownfields



- ◆ Widely accepted that we should be developing our Brownfields – not Greenfields
- ◆ UK policy: 90% of Brownfields to have permits for development by 2020
- ◆ Widely accepted that full clean up not necessary – risk based land management
- ◆ Incentives provided in some countries – eg 150% tax concession
- ◆ Importance of the deal maker
- ◆ **Need for a business case approach – identify the positives and overall benefit, resolve the negatives**

# Brownfields: Nature of regulation and the regulatory agency



- ◆ Because the remediation of contaminated land is often associated with development of land, should the remediation be controlled by the town planning agency and not the environmental agency?
  - Advantage of planning agency – used to dealing with qualitative and complex issues where trade offs are needed – such as social, economic and environmental
  - Environmental agency – narrow perspective on only one aspect?
  
- ◆ The NL approach of integrating planning and environmental protection – maybe very relevant to Victoria.

**Australia – where does the balance between town planning and environment lie, do our policies address this?**

# Emerging contaminants



- ◆ We only recognise and look for a very small number of contaminants – thought to be greatest risk
- ◆ Thousands of chemicals that could pose a concern, but we don't look for them and don't know how to assess them
- ◆ Evolving science - more sensitive analytical and assessment methods could show presence and effect (*cf* dioxins)
  - PFCs, dioxane, fire retardants
- ◆ We have common problems such as PFCs – many working on the issues
  - We need to work together
  - We need to base our approach on science and not preception

**Australia: do our processes and policies protect the rule of science and a risk-based approach? CRC is important.**

# Contaminants with emerging issues



- ◆ Contaminants with particular issues:
  - Lead, TCE, B(a)P, asbestos
- ◆ Important issues we don't know how to address:
  - Bioavailability (eg B(a)P)
  - Toxicity of mixtures

**Australia – important to respond to these issues – draw on international knowledge – incorporate in our guidance**

# Emerging science



- ◆ Similar to the regulatory scene – science is evolving
- ◆ More sensitive analytical methods – able to detect larger numbers of chemicals – what do we do with this information?
- ◆ More sensitive assessment methods including genomic methods – able to detect lesser effects – do we continue to aim for “no effect”? (no matter how slight?) Should we adopt a “DALY” approach?
- ◆ More advanced methods of assessment – underlying assumption that we need to have a full understanding of the site – high resolution methods – do we really need these and this level of effort and cost? Are there simpler solutions?
- ◆ Concept of two risk levels
  - target/aspirational level, and acute/serious risk level
- ◆ **We need strong scientific support to be able to sensibly direct our work so that our response is proportional/timely**

# Conclusion



- ◆ ICCL meeting has been very valuable
- ◆ Timing particularly important as Australia is developing a National Remediation Framework
- ◆ Allows Australian regulators to better understand the policy issues and the direction being taken by other countries
- ◆ Can encourage a proportional response - remain competitive with other countries





# Final Comments?

- ◆ Any suggestion for the future?



# Special Awards



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# Wishes for further discussion



- ◆ Funding CLM mechanisms / innovative models
- ◆ Transfer of liabilities
- ◆ Connecting to Land / Spatial planning
- ◆ Emerging contaminants and issues – to be continued?
- ◆ Mining Activities? Settling the sediment issue;
- ◆ Consequences of the Hg minimata convention
- ◆ Impact Assessment of National / regional programmes?
- ◆ Self-regulation? Regulation lite?
- ◆ Data management: curation, exchange,
- ◆ Diffuse contamination: assessment & remediation
- ◆ Risk communication/ stakeholder engagement
- ◆ Groundwater, aquatic ecosystem etc. risk based remediation

## ◆ ICCL Meeting

- Plenary vs. breakout sessions
- Survey
- Roundtable

## ◆ ICCL Workshop

- With other stakeholders

## ◆ Other ideas?



# Next ICCL meeting in Autumn 2017

Friday 11 September 2015

# in 2017



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## We look forward to seeing you in Copenhagen, Denmark






- ◆ Presentations on the Website within the end of the Month
  - If any problem with this, please let us know.
  
- ◆ Some pictures on the photo Gallery
  
- ◆ Request for having on line a list of ICCL members & guests: OK?
  - Keep us updated about any representation change

# ICCL international committee on contaminated land



meetings about the group gallery

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
  
Swiss Confederation

Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU  
Office fédéral de l'environnement OFEV  
Ufficio federale dell'ambiente UFAM  
Uffizi federal d'ambient UFAM  
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN



ICCL Website  
<http://www.iccl.ch>