

Envirolink Tools Project:

Development of a web-based directory

of spatial models and other decision support systems (DSS)

The project will produce a searchable web-based directory of existing spatial models and other decision support systems for policy and resource management by regional councils. The directory will provide standardised key information for each spatial model/DSS and will also include examples, where available, of how they have been used and applied by regional councils or other agencies. The directory will be designed to allow for the required flexibility to regularly review, update and add new models/DSS.

The aim of the directory is to facilitate increased up-take and use of current knowledge and ensure available research outputs are applied for environmental and resource management.

Expected future benefits of a Web Directory are:

- Easy access to up-to-date spatial models, other DSS and supporting information for councils.
- Maintenance and enhancement council's capacity and capability for integrated, long term planning and decision-making.

The project Team consists of Marjan van der Belt and Hendrik Stouten, Massey University/EERNZ (research provider), Tony Fenton, Alchemists Ltd (project co-ordinator) and Steve Markham (Tasman DC)/Beat Huser (Waikato RC) as project champions. The team will engage regularly with the Policy Managers SIG, and seek input and feedback from other SIGs and additional regional council staff. Input will also be sought from other potential end users (i.e. TA and central government policy) and research providers.

End User Group

The project is looking to set up an End User Group that can provide it with input and feedback during the development and testing of the Web Directory. The aim is to enlist a wide range of practitioners as members to the group who can bring their end user needs and experiences to the project. Most input from members is planned to be sourced via email or on-line. A face to face get together of the group could be planned if necessary.

The involvement from members of the End User Group would be to:

- Provide input to defining the range and types of end user needs for such a directory.
- Provide feedback on project documents (i.e. draft directory structure and functionality).
- Participate in testing of a prototype directory.

If you are interested in being part of this process and providing end user input to the design and functionality of the web directory and then providing feedback on a prototype please contact Tony Fenton to be included in the End User Group.

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