



TRAVEL, CONFERENCE or SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE REPORT 2015

Part 1 - Summary Details

Please use your TAB key to complete Parts 1 & 2.

CRDC Project Number: UNE1506

**Project Title: Travel: Present at ECSEE 2015, Brighton UK –
Tanya Howard**

Project Commencement Date: 2/7/15 **Project Completion Date:** 12/7/15

CRDC Research Program: Choose an item.

Part 2 – Contact Details

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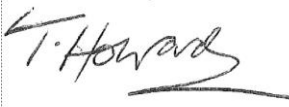
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Date Submitted: 5/8/15

Part 3 – Travel, Conference or Scientific Exchange Report

(Maximum two pages)

1. A brief description of the purpose of the travel.

Present Cotton RDC-funded doctoral social research at international conference in Brighton UK.

2. What were the:

a) major findings and outcomes

b) other highlights

Major findings from my PhD research were presented in a half hour presentation at the European Conference on Sustainability, Energy & the Environment 2015. Over the past three years I have researched rural communities and their struggles to effectively participate in environmental decision-making. I have collected case studies from the New England region that present empirical evidence of how community members and industry interact through the legal requirements of NRM planning and resource development.

These in-depth case studies contribute important insights into the way that legal and policy frameworks promote and/or limit the opportunity for innovation in NRM decision-making.

Evidence from the Australian rural context is useful for other for other jurisdictions that also struggle with reducing government investment and the rising use of market instruments. My research offers a strong methodology for analysis of existing legal requirements for community engagement and suggests a number of possible reforms, as well as future research directions, that are of interest to the wider natural resource and socio-legal communities.

3. Detail the persons and institutions visited, giving full title, position details, location, duration of visit and purpose of visit to these people/places. (NB:- Please provide full names of institutions, not just acronyms.)

European Conference on Sustainability, Energy & the Environment 2015. This event was held at the Thistle hotel in Brighton, UK.

On my return trip I attended a week long research exchange in Dayton, USA, at the invitation of the Kettering Foundation (this leg of the journey was funded by the Foundation). This workshop brings together practitioners and researchers who are working with rural and disadvantaged communities to improve their access to decision-making and regional sustainability.

4. a) Are there any potential areas worth following up as a result of the travel?

b) Any relevance or possible impact on the Australian Cotton Industry?

There is potential for an ongoing collaboration with the Kettering Foundation that could meet the R&D interests of the Cotton RDC, particularly considering how better community and industry governance can help build capacity in rural communities (Theme 4.2).

At the conference I met researchers from Singapore that are interested in water efficiency technology. They expressed interest in applying lessons from social science into behaviours concerning uptake of water planning and conservation. The issue of successful water management is widely discussed in environmental research communities and suggests an important direction for future collaborations and innovations emerging from the experiences of the cotton industry.

5. How do you intend to share the knowledge you have gained with other people in the cotton industry?

I am interested in working with the CRDC to further develop research directions in Theme 4, particularly around issues of community capacity and rural sustainability through governance development. I am unsure of how best to communicate these ideas to the cotton community, as previous attempts to publish in Spotlight have been unsuccessful.

