



2010 INORMS Congress  
*Managing Research for Impact*

Impact Case Study: Partnering to Make a Difference

Janet Dibb-Leigh  
Senior Advisor, UniSA Research & Innovation Cluster Initiative  
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Outline

- My university's mission
- The Research & Innovation Cluster Directorate's brief
- The Zero Waste story – a model of collaboration to make an impact



## UniSA's Mission




The University of South Australia fulfils its **legislative mission of advancing, disseminating and preserving knowledge** through the provision of a teaching, learning and research environment which fosters **excellence in scholarship, innovation and social responsibility.**

**Statement of Strategic Intent**  
Together we:

- value **quality, diversity, sustainability and equality**
- create, apply, and communicate knowledge which delivers **economic and social benefits** through action that is
- **intelligent in its use of new and emerging technologies**
- **innovative, collaborative and enterprising**
- **flexible, international and industry focused**
- student centred, service oriented and **multidisciplinary**
- **build upon our strengths**



## Research and Innovation Cluster Initiative





**Our brief**

- Build a collaborative research culture
- Build multidisciplinary research capacity
- Raise our profile as a responsive and relevant research partner
- Build relationships and reputation with external stakeholders
- Attract new and greater research investment
- Attract new researchers and partners
- Make a difference!



## The Zero Waste SA Partnership: *AVOID, REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE*

- **Zero Waste SA** – a South Australian state government organisation
- **Objective** – promote waste management practices that reduce waste or its consignment to landfill, and to advance the development of resource recovery and recycling
- Provides **grants** to local councils, waste industry, business (infrastructure, technology, systems, market development)
- Supports **research** into waste management practices and issues
- Decided to invest in a **research partner** to assist it make the transition from recycling emphasis towards reducing consumption and waste

***Research Priorities: Behavioural change; Measuring consumption/Eco-footprint; Resource efficiency; Decision-making (economic, social, environmental)***



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## The Zero Waste SA Partnership

- UniSA successful application to become ‘the partner’ (multidisciplinary team in bid preparation)
- Establishment of the Zero Waste SA Research Centre
- Five year agreement:
  - ZWSA \$200,000 p.a. for ARC Linkage Grants [a university/external stakeholder collaborative program]
  - UniSA contribution – new Chair in Sustainable Design and Behaviour, Researcher Network, Centre support
- Establishment of ZWSA Centre Management Committee and Advisory Board – review, mentor, connect, endorse
- International search for the Chair
- Acting Director (from Sustainable Communities Research Cluster Leadership Group)



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## The Zero Waste SA Partnership

- UniSA individual researcher interests identified, mapped
- Researcher Network established
- Agreement re use of ZW funds:
  - Seed/Pilot project funding (pre-ARC application) – \$5-10,000
  - Partner in ARC Linkage Grant application – up to \$50,000 p.a.
    - Leverage third party involvement, investment
- Workshops on ZW priority questions; researcher networking
- EOI and grant application review/feedback



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## Zero Waste SA Centre – Initial Projects, eg:

- Zeroing in on Food Waste - measuring, understanding and reducing food waste in SA from production to consumption in households and restaurants (2 universities, ZWSA, SA Local Gov't Assn)
- Adolescents as environmental citizens – how home, school, community and work affect the development of environmental citizenship in adolescents (ZWSA, NSW Commission for Children & Young People)
- Carbon-zero housing issues in Australia (ZWSA, Australian Institute of Building Surveyors)
- Work, life and sustainable living – how work, household and community life interact to affect environmental behaviours and outcomes (ZWSA, Community & Public Sector Union, SA Land Management Corporation, State Public Services Federation)



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## Zero Waste SA Centre – Events 2010, eg:

**Centre Events:** to create dialogue and understanding; build multidisciplinary, cross-sector networks; identify priority projects, collaborators and sponsors; **research and community outcomes!**

- *Future Inquiry Workshop: Reducing contamination in green waste across the value chain (May)*
- *Research Field Trip to Resource Management/Recycling Precinct; researcher/industry leader networking (August)*
- *Joint Public Lecture (September)*
- *Workshop: Promoting kitchen garden programs in schools and residential communities (October)*
- *OzHarvest (food rescue charity) – bringing it to South Australia?*



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## Zero Waste SA Centre – Outcomes & Ambitions



Some Outcomes?



- **For Zero Waste SA** – bringing ideas, multidisciplinary research capabilities, researcher links, 3<sup>rd</sup> party funding to change behaviour, broaden and deepen understanding

*Environmental, Educational, Social, Economic.....*



- **For UniSA** – research funding, competitiveness and profile as a national leader and catalyst in a complex area of priority



## Outcomes for the Research & Innovation Cluster Initiative?

- ✓ **A 'model' of research collaboration**
  - **Adopt for Northern Research Connections :**
    - A **joint venture** for Northern Adelaide with two local councils, Innovate SA, Defence SA (Technology Park), Delfin Lend Lease
    - Agreed industry, research, community **development priorities**
    - UniSA Research & Innovation Cluster Directorate to manage the **collaborative research fund**, build networks and multidisciplinary projects around priorities
- ✓ **Distinguish UniSA as a multidisciplinary, thematic based, outwardly focused research and teaching institution and community partner**
- ✓ **Have an impact!!**

*Make 1 + 1 + 1 = 6 or more*



\* \* \* \* Thank you \* \* \* \* \*

**Questions?**

[janet.dibbleigh@unisa.edu.au](mailto:janet.dibbleigh@unisa.edu.au)