



SEGRA 2010

# MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention News Editors / Chief of Staff  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## POTENTIAL FOR NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

*"Primary Production, Land and Water: opportunities for expansion in Northern Australia"* will be presented by Dr Peter Stone, Deputy Chief, Ecosystem Sciences, CSIRO at the Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA) conference in Townsville, this week.

The paper is drawn from Northern Australia Land and Water Science Review 2009, which was commissioned by the Office of Northern Australia with the purpose of informing the Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce's report and recommendations to the Prime Minister regarding the future of northern Australia.

Dr Stone will discuss the scientific analysis of the opportunities for and impacts of development in northern Australia.

This is a key theme for SEGRA this year," said Ms Kate Charters, who has convened the SEGRA conference since its inception in 1997.

"With the current understanding about climate change, discussion

around the Murray-Darling and Australia's increasing engagement with Asia, the potential for development, particularly in food production, in the north of our continent is tantalizing.

"Delegates are looking forward to hearing the analysis from the CSIRO."

Dr Stone will explain how this report accounts for contemporary society's values in exploring the key limitations and enablers required for future development in the north, including environmental, social, economic and governance considerations.

Other papers at the conference will address this issue including the Gulf Savannah Development Inc., which is keen to highlight the desire of the community to embrace the economic opportunities of development and take advantage of the abundant supply of water in the region.

SEGRA is the only national forum dedicated to regional issues. The conference has a number of core agenda items including building vibrant, resilient regions and regional cities, land rights and economic opportunities for indigenous Australians, governance and the developing role for northern Australia.

For a full conference program visit [www.segra.com.au](http://www.segra.com.au)

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