Modelling & Monitoring Hub (MaMH)
It is proposed that other tiers of government, universities and industry bodies will become involved in the knowledge hub in future years, following the development of modelling and monitoring inventories and key focus areas.

Similar networks are being established in other Australian states, such as the Queensland Modelling Network, that will have close association with the NSW MaMH.
2018 foundation projects

Given the scale and complexity of establishing an effective portfolio of Special Projects that address whole of government priorities, we are sequentially implementing the knowledge Hub commencing in the first year with delivery of two strategic high priority projects comprising:

1. a state-wide update and summary of water monitoring information; and
2. a state-wide inventory of specialist water modelling activities, capabilities and needs.

The outcomes of these strategic projects will help set state-wide priorities, exploit synergies, fill gaps and avoid duplication to ensure ongoing investments in modelling and monitoring are most effective. Delivery of these foundation projects will also help to refine the agreed MaMH processes, future funding requirements and the overall scope and scale of the Knowledge Hub.

Purpose of MaMH

The NSW Modelling and Monitoring Hub (MaMH) is a knowledge network led by a state-wide representative Working Group, with agreed processes established to coordinate and aid information sharing across government agencies and state-owned corporations in relation to water modelling and monitoring.

Effective water management is well recognised as a major issue facing all Australian states. NSW encompasses significant spatial and seasonal variability in hydrological conditions, while supporting Australia’s major populations in urban centres that are highly concentrated along dynamic riverine/floodplain, estuarine and coastal oceanic shores. Trustworthy and accessible information derived from fit-for-purpose models and data offers government a strong and cost-effective information base to inform policy, planning and decision frameworks that is evidence-based and scientifically defensible.

Information, resource and expertise sharing through the MaMH will benefit government beyond the resources available within individual agencies. Knowledge is being developed and shared via delivery of a portfolio of Special Projects.
Priorities and ranking

A portfolio of MaMH Special Projects will be selected based on needs identified from the initial foundation projects and the following principles (in order of importance):

1. Expected degree (value) and extent (who) of direct and/or indirect tangible (demonstrable/measurable) public benefit(s) derived;

2. Expected degree (value) and extent (who) of direct and/or indirect application of outcomes to identified needs of NSW state and local government agencies (preference will be given to Special Projects with multi-agency applications);

3. Degree of demonstrated capabilities, relevant experience and track record (past performance) of the proposed resources;

4. Degree of technical and other project risks, including effectiveness of any proposed mitigation strategies on risk consequences and likelihood; and

5. Clarity and viability of the proposed methodologies and scope of the MaMH Special Project.
Knowledge sharing and the future

After honing our understanding of the state’s modelling and monitoring activities, capabilities and needs, we will be able to develop a more complete strategic portfolio of future MaMH Special Projects to maximise state-wide benefits in years to come.

Information sharing is being undertaken via quarterly Working Group meetings, an annual Open Forum and other dissemination activities within each of the MaMH Special Project Delivery Action Plans, which are expected to include conference/journal papers and inter-agency roadshows. Industry wide knowledge sharing and capability development is also being supported (where this is in the public interest) through the annual Open Forum and possible future direct participation by other interested parties.

Agency specific and broader needs to protect and manage intellectual property and expert knowledge is considered by the Working Group in assessing knowledge sharing mechanisms, extents and processes.

Information sharing and inter-agency capability development is encouraged in delivery of Special Projects through secondments and/or shared work areas and the expression of member and delivery team values that embrace:

- a whole of government perspective
- a high level of cooperation and teamwork
- open communications between members and
- transparency, fairness and integrity.

These values are adopted to maximise the sharing of knowledge, capabilities and information to maximise public value towards delivering and enabling world-class public sector services across NSW.