

Employment History

2009-	Executive Director, Applied Research and Innovation,	National Research Foundation, South Africa
2005 –2008	Professor and Director	Institute for Water and Environmental Resource Management , University of Technology Sydney, Australia
2002 – 2004	Associate Professor and Director	Unilever Centre for Environmental Water Quality, Institute for Water Research, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.
1996 – 2001	Senior Researcher, and Director from 2000	Institute for Water Research, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.
1992 -1995	Researcher	Institute for Water Research, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.
1989-1991	Doctoral student and Graduate assistant	
1982-1988	Senior Biology Teacher	Diocesan School for Girls, Grahamstown, SA

Key Applied Research Experience

Ecotoxicology

- Development of methods for water quality to complement environmental flow assessments.
- Development of a South Africa eco-toxicity data-base
- Development of an approach of increased environmental realism in experimental exotoxicology
- Understanding salts as toxicants to aquatic ecosystems

Water Law and Policy

- Co-editor and author of the *White Paper on a National Water Policy for South Africa*. Accepted by Cabinet May 1997.
- Application of Water Research Commission-funded research to the development of the National Water Act (No 36 of 1998).

Integrated Catchment Management

- Development of trans-disciplinary methods to address catchment management issues in South Africa and Australia.

Awards

2002	South African National “Women in Water” award
1999	Silver medal of the Southern African Society for Aquatic Scientists (SASAQS)

Research Achievements

Competitive Funds Awarded

1992 – 2004 > R13 Million	South Africa: 32 projects. Funders: Competitive grants awarded by the Water Research Commission (+-75%); Applied research grants from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (+-15%); Applied research grants and consultancies from industry (+-10%)
2000 onwards starting with R400K /year, 15% annual increment	Funding from the Unilever Foundation (with a 10% annual increment, renewable every 3 years) to maintain the Unilever Centre for Environmental Water Quality Centre as a Unilever flagship environmental project.
2005 – 2008 AUS\$ >1M	Australia Australian Research Council Linkage & NSW Environmental Trust grants; UTS internal grants

Research Training: Primary Supervision and Examination

- 2 PhD student completed, in applied Ecotoxicology and Environmental Risk Assessment
 - 11 Research Masters students completed in environmental water quality
 - >1 Honours student/s in most years since 1992
 - 4 Higher degree theses examined
-

Publications and Presentations

- 3 Monographs: microstructural functional feeding adaptations; research and policy supporting river conservation; A new South African water law.
 - 25 Refereed journal articles
 - 2 Handbooks for public communication of science and policy
 - >20 Peer-Reviewed applied research reports
 - >75 Presentations (7 invited/keynote)
-

Professional and Advisory roles

1994 - 1997	South African Water Law review process (Vice chair)
1999 - 2004	Board Member: Water Research Commission (02-04 Vice chair)
1996 - 1998	National Water Advisory Council South Africa
2005- 2008	Alternate board member of the Sydney Institute for Marine Science
2009-	Board Member: National Aerospace Centre of Excellence, University of the Witwatersrand. (An initiative of the Department of Trade and Industry) Member: Advanced Manufacturing Technology Strategy (AMTS) Project Funding Committee (An initiative of the Department of Science and Technology) Core Member: South African node International Resilience Alliance

Biography:

Professor Tally Palmer is Executive Director of Applied Research and Innovation at the National Research Foundation. She has recently returned from 4 years in Australia where she was Director of the Institute for Environmental and Resource Management at the University of Technology Sydney – and trans-disciplinary institute across both the faculties of science and engineering. Tally was also the Director of the Centre for Ecotoxicology, a joint initiative between UTS and the New South Wales Department of Environment and Climate Change. She is a riverine aquatic ecologist who has broad experience in aquatic ecosystem and pollution research and research applications in water resource management. “It is vital to make research useful to water resource users, managers, and decision-makers.” Tally’s research now focuses on the ways in which new thinking about complexity and integration can assist society to take account of a wide variety of data, information and knowledge in the search for innovative approaches to sustainability. She is passionate about applied research – research making a difference to society.