



During the Senate Committee hearing in Townsville on Wednesday 9 October, the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) took the following questions on notice. Our responses are herein.

Q1. Hon. Sen. Dean Smith asked how many research projects the CRCNA had delivered to date.

A1. As at 9 October 2019, the CRCNA had completed three projects. These are:

- [North Queensland Agricultural Market and Supply Chain Study](#)
- [Building the Traditional Owner-led bush products sector](#)
- [Capturing the ASEAN agricultural opportunity for Northern Australia](#)

Q2. Hon. Sen. Dean Smith asked how many projects the CRCNA current had underway.

A2. As at the 9 October 2019, the CRCNA had contracted 31 projects with a total value exceeding \$28.7 million.

These projects are outlined below.

	Project Reference No	Contracted project Name	CRCNA Funding Ex. GST	Total Project Value Ex. GST
1	A.1.1718104	North Queensland agricultural market and supply chain study	\$227,273	\$437,933
2	AT.2.1718054	Building the Traditional Owner led bush products sector	\$70,909	\$266,738
3	A.1.1718117	Northern Australia beef sector situational analysis study	\$181,163	\$470,146
4	AT.4.1718111	Business on country: Land use diversification on the Indigenous estate	\$363,636	\$1,000,177
5	A.1.1718014	Evaluation of the potential to expand horticultural industries in northern Australia	\$181,818	\$434,029
6	AT.4.1718040	Building horticultural production knowledge and capacity within Indigenous enterprise	\$52,363	\$185,091
7	A.3.1718083	Smart supply chains	\$272,727	\$754,545
9	A.1.1718097	Exporting perishable commodities to Asia: Developing a stakeholder collaboration model	\$235,455	\$550,910
10	A.3.1718105	Transforming mango futures	\$500,000	\$1,182,179
11	AT.2.1718031	Improving the efficiency of Kakadu plum/ Gubinge	\$454,545	\$2,276,370
12	H.3.1718035	Establishing eye screening services	\$800,000	\$1,636,362



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13	A.3.1819007	Sustainable export supply chains for Calypso mango to China	\$952,471	\$2,245,551
14	AT.2.1718098	Cherabin aquaculture production as an enabler for Indigenous business development	\$90,909	\$2,293,313
15	A.1.1718119	Northern Australia aquaculture industry situational analysis	\$202,117	\$422,361
16	A.1.1718120	Northern Australia rice industry situational analysis	\$100,000	\$505,136
17	A.1.1718122	Northern Australian forestry industry situational analysis	\$100,000	\$209,327
18	A.7.1819078	Capturing the ASEAN agricultural opportunity for Northern Australia	\$110,000	\$110,000
19	A.1.1819039	Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday Export supply chains	\$96,000	\$196,904
20	HT.2.1718007	Enabling a traditional Australian medicinal plants agribusiness	\$363,636	\$1,142,032
21	AHT.7.1718129	Northern Australian communication analysis	\$145,000	\$288,933
22	A.7.1819101	Re-framing northern Australia supply chains	\$110,000	\$155,000
23	A.7.1718124	Northern Australia investor identification and analysis	\$175,000	\$215,000
24	A.3.1819067	Strengthening northern Australia's horticultural sector through assessing protected cropping	\$100,000	\$443,045
25	A.2.1819045	Spicing up northern Australia with high-value condiment crops	\$300,000	\$1,211,334
26	A.2.1718116	Developing an oilseed industry in northern Australia Grains Research and Development Corporation have co-invested \$300,000 for this project.	\$300,000	\$1,520,500
27	A.2.1819105	Developing a broadacre cropping sector in North Queensland Grains Research and Development Corporation have co-invested \$300,000 for this project.	\$299,989	\$1,581,959
28	A.1.1819043	FNQ (Cairns) regional export supply chain	\$200,000	\$426,000
29	H.1.1819103	Northern Australia health service delivery situational analysis study	\$149,534	\$249,597
30	A.2.1819106	De-risking broadacre cropping options for northern Queensland Grains Research and Development Corporation have co-invested \$234,395 for this project.	\$234,395	\$1,545,464
31	A.2.1819053 NT & WA	Northern Australian tropical rock oyster research and development project	\$1,200,000	\$4,124,090
		Total	\$8,878,031	\$28,775,274

Q3. Hon. Sen. Dean Smith asked how many projects were progressing through the CRCNA evaluation process.

A3. As at the 9 October, the CRCNA had 9 projects progressing through the contract finalisation stage. These include projects awarded funding from the 2018/19 open funding call and projects which the CRCNA has commissioned and developed terms of reference for. In addition to these projects, the CRCNA has committed \$1.6 million towards five projects from its recent 2019/20 open funding call. Project participants and CRCNA project managers are currently working on developing costed Research Plans and contracts for these projects. So, there are currently 14 projects in the “pipeline”.

Figure 1 below provides an overview of the CRCNA's general expression of interest approval process.



Figure 1 CRCNA EOI approval process



Q4. Hon. Sen. Dodson asked CRCNA Chair, Sheriden Morris, whether the CRCNA had hard data on what programs are affected by state regimes, local government regimes or Commonwealth regimes.

A4. In response to this question, Ms Morris indicated the CRCNA would be able to access this data. She was referring to strategic work now being developed in each of the three jurisdictions (the Northern Territory, Western Australian and Queensland) exploring better approaches to facilitating agricultural development in the north, while still achieving sound environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes from development.

This work is expected to be fully underway by the end of 2019 and will go some way to addressing Sen. Dodson's question.

The work will examine how agricultural development can be prioritised, key processes and investment brokerage improved and what infrastructure requirements are necessary to support this development. The CRCNA expects to find the lack of data available in northern Australia to meet current regulatory obligations may be a significant impediment to development assessment processes. This work is a priority for the CRCNA as, at this point in time, only anecdotal data is available concerning the way current regulatory regimes impact northern development policies and programs. The CRCNA would be happy to share the results of this research with Senator Dodson (and the Committee) when it became available.

Concluding comments

The CRCNA regularly published updates, reports and fact sheets about its research collaborations. Senators can subscribe to receive these updates [here](#).

CEO Jed Matz and Chair Sheriden Morris would welcome any opportunity to discuss the CRCNA's work with the Committee at any time and would be happy to accommodate visits to any of our current research sites or introductions to our project participants.

For any further information about the CRCNA, please contact Carla Keith, Communications Manager