

Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Inquiry: Northern Australia Workforce Development

Question No: IQ23-000118

Hearing Date:

Division/Agency: Agricultural Policy Division

Topic: Northern Australia CRC

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Question Date: 31 March 2023

Question Type: Spoken

Senator McDonald asked:

Senator McDONALD: I'm sure everybody on this committee has had somebody weep on their shoulder, even recently, about workforce shortage and how difficult it is to run a business if you don't have enough workers to pay the bills. What coordination do you have with the northern Australia CRC?

Ms Stanion: I would need to take that on notice. Off the top of my head, I'm not sure what work—my area doesn't do anything specific with the northern Australia CRC, but I imagine the RDCs, the rural research and development corporations, would work with that CRC, because they do work across a number of them jointly.

Answer:

Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) regularly co-ordinate and interact with the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA), including through corporate membership of CRCNA and on specific research projects. Some examples of these interactions are listed below.

- **AgriFutures Australia** is a corporate member of CRCNA and maintains regular engagement. At a research level the relationship involves consultation and collaboration on emerging industries and buffalo research, development and extension (RD&E) programs.
- **Grains Research and Development Corporation, Meat and Livestock Australia** and **Cotton Research and Development Corporation** are involved with CRCNA on an integrated farming system RD&E investment focussed on cotton, grains and cattle.
- **Forest and Wood Products Australia** is co-investing with CRCNA in research towards maximising northern tropical forestry, linking communities and cutting-edge technology.
- **Australian Pork Limited** engages with CRCNA including via meetings with the National Feral Pig Management Coordinator.
- **Sugar Research Australia** collaborates with CRCNA on research projects including the *ProjectBGreen* initiative and the *Suitable sugarcane to diversify income and add value* project.
- **Horticulture Innovation** has been involved in CRCNA projects including consultations on the *Evaluation of the potential to expand horticultural industries in Northern Australia*.

- **Fisheries Research and Development Corporation** engages with CRCNA on projects including *Demonstrating the impact of prawn viruses on prawn aquaculture production*, *Northern Australian Tropical Rock Oyster research and development*, and *Pioneering Tropical Rock Lobster raft grow-out for Northern Australia*.