



The result of extensive research, consultation and engagement, this report provides pathways to improve productivity and competitiveness for our northern agriculture, food and tropical health sectors.

Hon. Keith Pitt MP
Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia



Next steps

Future research investment

The CRCNA's future research investment will:

- Underpin meaningful economic, commercial and sustainable impact
- Generate targeted data to de-risk and support planning and investment decisions now and into the future
- Identify research pathways to achieve Northern Australia priorities and aspirations, including those of our Traditional Owners.

Emerging themes in Northern Australian research priorities

- Improving governance, planning, decision-making and regulation
- Reducing barriers for better use of land and water resources
- Improving infrastructure, supply and value chains
- An appropriately skilled workforce which meets the long-term needs of the North
- Technology driven productivity and profitability
- Continue to invest in Traditional Owner-led business development research.

Implementing State of the North 2020

- The CRCNA is calling for research proposals addressing priority areas identified by our foundational research
- \$2.5m of CRCNA's research funds have been allocated towards progressing research collaborations in beef, aquaculture, supply chains, digital inclusivity, rice, forestry and sugarcane sectors, health service delivery and Traditional Owner-led enterprise
- The CRCNA has earmarked \$2m to progress de-risking work with industry and Northern Australian governments to resolve common impediments to development.

State of the North 2020 report – Summary

The inaugural State of the North report provides an overview of the CRCNA's foundational research across key Northern Australian agricultural, Traditional Owner, communications, and health sectors.

The key sectors examined in the first stages of the CRCNA investment include beef, aquaculture, forestry, broadacre cropping, rice, avocados, mangoes and lychees.

Agricultural supply chains have been examined within the Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday (MIW),

North Queensland, Far North Queensland and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional contexts.

The report is a culmination of foundational research projects and has identified:

- A baseline of the key agricultural sectors
- Opportunities for development
- Barriers to realising these opportunities
- Potential solutions to the identified barriers.

The State of the North 2020 report provides:

A comprehensive assessment of Northern Australia's key agricultural sectors detailing the opportunities and challenges facing development.

New evidence-based insights and solutions developed with industry for industry.

New pan-northern solutions to support the de-risking of Northern Australian agricultural development.

A clear pathway forward for the CRCNA, our investment partners and research collaborators.

Read the full State of the North 2020 report and all project reports at www.crcna.com.au/publications

HEAD OFFICE – TOWNSVILLE
(07) 4401 5035 · enquiry@crcna.com.au
www.crcna.com.au



Northern Australia

The combination of a low-risk investment destination, abundance in available resources and proximity to key consumer markets forms a pronounced value proposition for investment in Northern Australia (PwC 2020).

Production capability and potential to expand

Northern Australia covers more than 40% of Australia's land mass and contains up to 17 million hectares of potentially arable soil.

Proximity to, and importance of, Asia

Northern Australia is Australia's closest region to Asia's fast-growing key markets.

A unique part of the global tropics

Northern Australia's tropical climate provides a unique advantage to increase agricultural production through better technology and use of land.

Favourable conditions of trade

Australia is a low-risk investment destination with historically consistent growth and ease in investment processes that outperforms similar global economies.



New solutions to support sustainable development in Northern Australia

To achieve a sustainable and prosperous Northern Australia we need to:

- Support effective de-risking of priority agricultural areas to:
 - › prioritise agricultural development in northern jurisdictions
 - › develop new collaborative planning models in priority agricultural development areas
 - › improve brokerage, assessment and approval approaches and targeted regulatory improvements
 - › lift the investment readiness of landholders (including Traditional Owners, existing farmers and new entrants).
- Provide planning and investment data to enhance investor decision making
- Continue and develop a strategic and integrated approach to biosecurity across the health and agriculture sectors
- Establish a Northern Australian Supply Chain Development Fund
- Develop more Regional Population and Infrastructure Investment plans
- Progress regional and local energy and communication investment frameworks
- Invest in Northern Australian-specific water infrastructure
- Support strategic investment in sector and workforce development
- Increase strategic investment in knowledge generation through Cooperative Research Centre research programs and the National Environmental Science Program Hubs
- Maintain the Northern Australian Ministerial Forum, Office of Northern Australia and Northern Australia Senior Officers Network Group and the Northern Australian Indigenous Reference Group
- Establish an independent, cross-jurisdictional Northern Australian health network.



The Northern Australia opportunity is vast...



1,400 TO 2,300
NEW DIRECT JOBS IN
AQUACULTURE IN THE
NEXT 10 YEARS



13M HECTARES
OF NATIVE FORESTS
WITH COMMERCIAL
POTENTIAL



GENERATING CRITICAL MASS
OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY
ENABLES VALUE ADDING
THROUGH PROCESSING



\$13B IN UNTAPPED EXPORT
POTENTIAL FOR NORTHERN
AUSTRALIAN BEEF AND
LIVE CATTLE



\$800M OF UNTAPPED
HIGH VALUE EXPORT
POTENTIAL IN FAR
NORTH QUEENSLAND
REGION



ADVANCES IN EHEALTH,
TELEHEALTH TECHNOLOGY AND
DIAGNOSIS WILL IMPROVE
HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF
NORTHERN AUSTRALIANS



DEVELOPING A SOYBEAN
ROTATIONAL SYSTEM
WITH SUGARCANE WOULD
GENERATE AN ADDITIONAL
\$46M IN PRODUCTION VALUE



POTENTIAL FOR A 50-
FOLD EXPANSION IN
AREA AVAILABLE FOR
FRESHWATER POND
AQUACULTURE