

Expressions of interest: North Western Australian air freight study

Closing date: 5pm AEST Monday 15 March 2021

The Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) is seeking a suitably qualified organisation or individual to collaborate with the CRCNA in the development of a *Northern Western Australian air freight study: An evaluation of air freight and market opportunities for high value, perishable products from the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of northern Western Australia.*

Project Outline

This project aims to investigate opportunities for connecting financially viable air freight services across north Western Australia, into overseas and domestic markets.

The investigation process will involve a series of actions including:

1. literature review
2. interviews of key stakeholders and knowledge holders
3. standard economic analytical methods
4. analysis and integration of data.

These actions will provide the following products:

1. Analyses of the product capacity, seasonality, continuity, types and combinations needed to support viable, regular freight services all year.
2. Characterisation of the value chains needed to enable access to markets, providing value chains analysis for existing and best bet potential new products.
3. Integration of findings from previous studies on supply chains, air and sea freight, Asian and Middle Eastern market demands and market constraints.
4. Capacity models for growers/producers.
5. Economic analyses of the infrastructure needed to enable air freight, cold storage, processing, packaging and biosecurity treatments.
6. Investigation of freight equalisation and other government schemes which might enable air freight in Northern Australia.
7. Cost comparisons and risk analyses of air freighting product to markets in the north, south, east and west.
8. Air freight strategies for connecting northern WA airports with each other, the Pilbara, domestic hubs and Asia.
9. Investigation of appropriate location of export hubs across Northern Australia.
10. Analyses of constraints and opportunities to progress.
11. Implementation plans.

Specific outputs

The products will be integrated to produce specific outputs which will include:

- 1) A flow map of
 - a) volume of produce needed by region and type
 - b) regional links needed to enable a viable, regular air freight service
 - c) air freight export costs by volume
 - d) Cost and viability of inbound freight.

- 2) A description of current constraints to supply volumes as identified above
 - a) Economic and market constraints
 - b) Customs, quarantine and biosecurity requirements of export and import products
 - c) Infrastructure pre- and post-farm gate
 - d) Impact on volume from competing freight options (sea and land).
- 3) Recommendation for location of most effective, viable export and import hubs in northern Western Australia.
- 4) A partnership based “Implementation Plan”, determined by the study’s outcomes and focused on achieving financially viable outcomes. These may include:
 - a) two flights a week from northern Western Australia to Asia
 - b) establishment of a dedicated freight facility, with cold storage at a selected airport or airports.

Delivery of the “Implementation Plan” by industry is the key output of this project.

Requirements

The successful applicant will work closely with the Project Steering Committee which consists of representatives from project partners including the CRCNA, Pilbara Airlines, Broome Airport, Shire of Wyndham and East Kimberley, Kimberley Meat Company, Maxima Opportunity Group and the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

It is anticipated this study will be completed within 12 months.

Essential criteria

Applications must address the following essential criteria within the online application form.

1. experience in analysis of supply chain logistics
2. expertise in strategic development of aviation businesses
3. ability to conduct economic analyses
4. understanding of the challenges of business in northern Australia
5. the ability to work collaboratively and be guided by a steering committee
6. understanding of agriculture value chains
7. experience in developing market driven strategies

How to apply

All applications **must be** submitted via the online EOI form.

More information

Please forward any questions to projects@crcna.com.au or call 07 4401 5035 during Queensland business hours Monday to Friday.