



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

2018/19

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Key dates

- Expressions of interest open – **Monday 23 July 2018**
- Expressions of interest close – **5pm AEST on Friday 7 September 2018**

How to apply

1. The [online Expression of Interest form](#) is available on the [CRCNA website](#) from **Monday 23 July 2018**
2. Complete and submit Expressions of Interest form online prior to the deadline **5pm AEST on Friday 7 September 2018**

Overview

The Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (CRCNA) has the capacity to commit up to \$4.6 million for research collaborations in 2018/19. The CRCNA is seeking collaborations to develop new technologies, products and services which address industry issues in Northern Australia within the areas of Agriculture and Food, Northern Australian Health Services Delivery and Traditional Owner-led agribusiness or health business development.

2018/19 Research Focus

The CRCNA is focusing in the following areas for round two of funding:

Agriculture and Food	Northern Australia Health Services Delivery	Traditional Owner-led Agribusiness or Health Business Development
Supply Chain Efficiencies	Improved models for early detection, health seeking behaviour and mental health	New place-based business development opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and strengthen existing supply chain systems. • Identify and develop more efficient or new ways of moving agricultural/food products from Northern Australia to market. • Identify opportunities and develop strategies to facilitate vertical integration within key agricultural supply chains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop innovative health service delivery infrastructure, methods and/or technology models which enable and support: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improved early detection of diseases Improved health seeking behaviour Improved mental health service delivery and support systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify what key processes will deliver place-based development opportunities for Traditional Owners.
Production System and Technology Improvements	Development of new market opportunities and prospectus building	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify new systems/technologies which have a transformational impact across a broad agricultural sector. • Identify and develop innovative production systems, including for new/emerging industries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and develop opportunities to export unique knowledge about health service delivery platforms, services, practices /technology to new domestic and international markets. 	

Table 1: CRCNA research focus and themes for round 2 EOIs

Critical Research Questions

The CRCNA is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) which are industry-led and address issues specifically related to Northern Australia.

EOIs can be submitted by industry, researchers, Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and/or community sectors and must address one or more of the following critical research questions:

1. Agriculture and Food (including aquaculture)

- i. In the context of **developing stronger and more efficient supply chains for new, emerging and existing Northern agricultural and food industries**, what new approaches, solutions, technologies, innovations or processes does your research deliver to address the CRCNA's research focus as outlined in Table 1?
- ii. In the context of **developing new technologies and alternative production systems for new, emerging and existing Northern agricultural and food industries**, what new approaches, solutions, technologies, innovations or processes will your research deliver to address the CRCNA's research focus as outlined in Table 1?

2. Northern Australian Health Service Delivery

- i. In the context of **developing new, transferable models to improve the delivery of early detection, health seeking behaviour and mental health services across Northern Australia**, what new approaches, solutions, technologies, or processes will your research deliver to address the CRCNA's research focus as outlined in Table 1?
- ii. In the context of **developing new market opportunities across the Northern Australia health care service delivery sector**, what new approaches, solutions, technologies, or processes will your research deliver to address the CRCNA's research focus as outlined in Table 1 and **how may these may be exported to other domestic or international providers?**

3. Traditional Owner-led Business Development

- i. In the context of **building an industry ready skilled workforce in agriculture and food and / or health service sectors**, what key processes will your research identify and develop to **deliver new place-based development opportunities for Traditional Owners?**

Funding Considerations

Pathways to Impact

EOIs should demonstrate how the proposed research will benefit communities in Northern Australia.

The *Project Outputs and Pathways to Impact* section of the EOI form is where Applicants can outline the proposed pathways to impact and describe how the research will meet each of the CRCNA's five strategic objectives (as outlined in Appendix 1).

Please note, successful EOIs will have the opportunity to provide more detail on pathways to impact in the Project Outline.

Co-contributions

EOIs must (at a minimum) match the amount of grant funding sought through **cash and/or in-kind co-contributions**. Those EOIs which include a high cash co-contribution will be considered more favourably during the EOI assessment process.

It is at the participant's discretion to determine who will provide the co-contribution and if there are multiple sources, what proportion each contributes.

In-kind co-contributions are non-cash resources provided by a participant to conduct the activities of the EOI. They may be staff or non-staff resources.

Funding Uses

CRCNA funding **can** be used to support the costs of:

- Research
- Salaries
- Student placements
- Strategies that build the R&D capacity within SMEs
- Deployment of research outputs and encouragement of take up by industry

CRCNA funding **cannot** be used for EOIs that:

- do not have a research component
- do not have at least one Industry Partner
- whose outputs are highly localised without potential broader application across Northern Australia
- are to build capital works or for the purchase or construction of facilities such as buildings or laboratories
- are for renovation or extension of buildings and facilities
- are for any activities for which you have previously been funded, or are currently being funded by the Australian Government or a State or Territory government

Participant Declarations, Partnership Agreements and Membership Requirements

Applicants are not required to submit a **Participant Declaration** as part of the EOI process.

Only participants of successful EOIs are required to enter into a partnership arrangement with the CRCNA. They will also be required to become Members of the CRCNA. Applicants do not need to be Members to submit an EOI.

For more information about CRCNA Membership, refer to Appendix 2.

Industry-led research collaborations

EOIs must demonstrate **why** industry needs the research and clearly outline **how** the industry will support and adopt the research (pathways to impact). At **least one** of the EOI collaborators must represent the **industry** in which the research is being undertaken.

Industry partners are not required to lead the EOI nor submit the EOI.

Government Statutory Authorities and **Government Entities** at state, federal and local levels are welcome to submit EOIs but must have at least one partner representing industry (or the end-user where appropriate).

Significant government investment in health institutions and organisations will not preclude them from eligibility in CRCNA funding calls. However, government investment in the proposed EOI must be declared in the *Project financials* section of the EOI form.

EOI Approval Process

EOIs will be assessed through a competitive, merit-based process. CRCNA will prepare, in collaboration with appointed advisory committee members (where required), recommendations for final consideration by the CRCNA Board. Successful EOIs will be invited to submit a Project Outline and Project Financials with more specific detail on the proposed research project.

The CRCNA will also contact unsuccessful EOI Applicants.

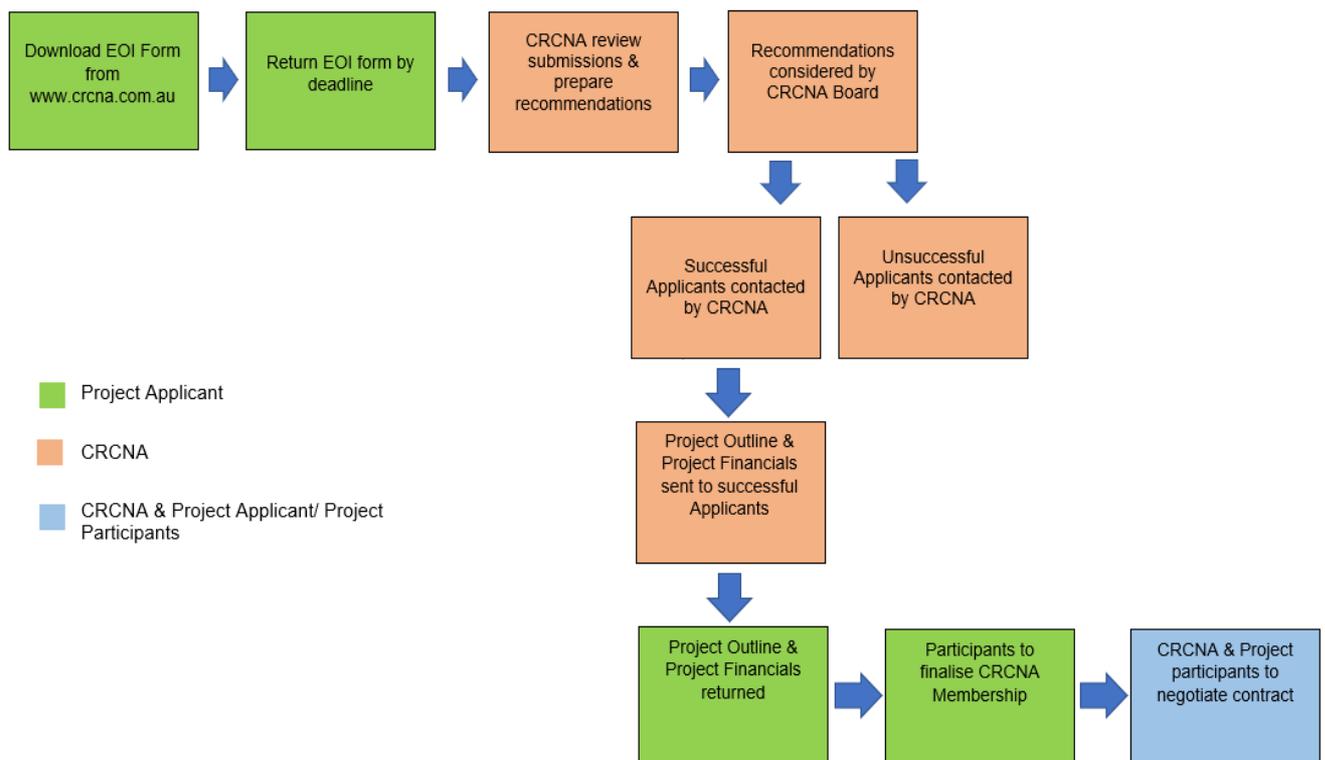


Figure 1 The CRCNA EOI approval process

Eligibility

For an EOI to be considered eligible it must:

- have at least one partner representing industry (or the end-user where appropriate).
- include significant **co-investment of cash and in-kind** (at a minimum 1:1). EOIs with a high cash contribution will be viewed more favourably
- fit within one (or more) of the three investment themes:
 - Agriculture and Food (including aquaculture)
 - Northern Australia Health Service Delivery
 - Traditional Owner-led Business Development in agriculture, food and/or health industries.
- ensure the research impact falls within the Northern Australian region (Northern Territory and above the Tropic of Capricorn of Queensland and Western Australia).

Note: this does not preclude research conducted outside of Northern Australia so long as the impact is within the Northern Australia region.

Merit criteria

Applications will be assessed through a competitive, merit-based process. Applications must:

- measurably demonstrate how their EOI will impact on one or more of the CRCNA's Strategic Objectives (refer to Appendix 1).
- fit within the 2018/19 focus areas and tackle the most strategic barriers facing the identified focus areas.
- demonstrate why the EOI should be CRCNA funded and not be funded by other related programs (e.g. State and NT agencies, RD&E Corporations, etc.).
- include significant co-investment of cash and in-kind. EOIs with a high cash contribution will be viewed more favorably.
- clearly demonstrate how the EOI is supported by industry as a necessary investment i.e. has demonstrable links to other industry and/or Government strategic plans and priorities.
- have clear pathways to impact.
- demonstrate a strong Return on Investment.

Appendix 1

CRCNA Strategic Objectives

The CRCNA seeks to deliver high impact research that will lower investment barriers and enable significant capital to flow in Northern Australia leading to:

1. Increased GDP
2. Increased investment in Northern Australian
3. Improved supply chain efficiencies in Northern Australia
4. Generation of new jobs on Northern Australia
5. Improved wellbeing of the Northern Australian community

Table 1 below provides a guide to how Applicants may consider calculating the EOI's impact against these criteria.

Please note, successful EOIs will have the opportunity to elaborate on these responses in the Project Outline but should provide some brief comments against these objectives as part of the EOI response.

Strategic Objective	Calculated Impact of the proposed EOI
Increased Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Northern Australia.	Specific calculation of new economic trade enabled by the CRC investment and reflected as GDP impact (in Australian dollars) per annum.
Increased investment in Northern Australia.	Specific calculation of new investment arising (in Australian dollars), categorised as research, infrastructure and services per annum.
Improved (supply chain) efficiencies in Northern Australia.	Specific calculation of increased cost efficiencies in production and the supply chain (in Australian dollars) per annum.
Generation of new jobs in Northern Australia.	Specific calculation of new and retained jobs created (calculated in FTE terms) per annum.
Improved wellbeing of the Northern Australian community	Specific calculation of multiple but specific wellbeing measures calculated per annum.

Appendix 2

CRCNA Membership

The CRCNA Membership brings together industry, communities, research organisations, all northern jurisdictions and international partners in a collaborative industry-led RD&E venture.

A key strength of the CRCNA is the flexibility to allow members to engage with the CRCNA on a project by project basis. The CRCNA welcomes all parties with an interest in developing Northern Australia to become Members.

The CRCNA Membership structure has been designed so membership is a nominal fee to ensure any entity, be it an individual, company, research organisation or Government can be treated equally with all members holding only one vote at a General Meeting of the Company.

[Nominate for Membership](#) via the CRCNA website.