IMPACT EVALUATION
Beef sector industry analysis

Project: A.1.1718117
Northern Australian beef sector industry situational analysis

Project timeframe:
October 2018 to April 2020

Partners:

- CSIRO
- Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
- Agforce Queensland
- Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association
- Cattle Council of Australia
- Meat and Livestock Australia.

Project summary:

With continued interest in developing northern Australia, this situation analysis was undertaken to help the CRCNA and the wider northern pastoral industry shape future policy and investment decisions.

The study identified the competitive advantages of the northern Australian beef industry as its well-adapted production systems, low cost base, and strategic geographic position, which together enable strong access to South-East Asian markets.

The analysis produced 11 recommendations focused on three key themes:

- Building on the region's competitive advantages in production systems, cost efficiency, and market proximity;
- Continuing R&D investment to drive profitability and productivity improvements among leading businesses; and
- Supporting the transformation of the northern beef industry towards higher productivity and long-term viability.

Project impacts to date:

These findings directly informed significant new CRCNA investment in the Cotton Grains Cattle program and helped influence broader industry culture and decision-making across northern Australia.

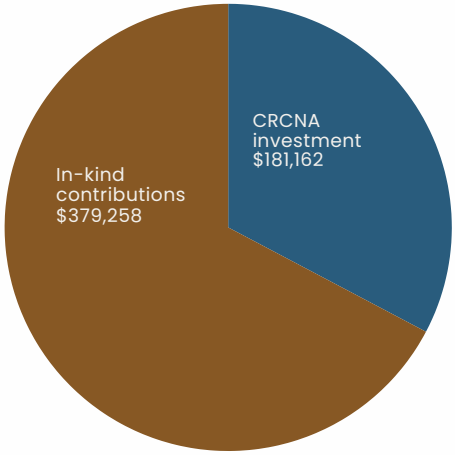
- The Cropping Enabled Cattle Project leveraged an additional $4.54 million to address key research questions supporting the intensification of irrigated crop and beef production systems in northern Western Australia, particularly around the Ord River Irrigation Area (ORIA).
- The Crops for Cattle Project attracted a further $3.56 million to integrate Northern Territory cropping and cattle production systems, improving cattle weight gains during the dry season and supporting greater industry efficiency.

Beyond direct agricultural outcomes, the Situation Analysis also contributed to shaping infrastructure investment priorities in Queensland.

- Insights from the research helped inform the Inland Queensland Roads Action Plan (IQ-RAP), which ultimately secured $1 billion in joint Australian and Queensland Government funding to upgrade the Inland Freight Route, boosting productivity across inland regions.

Access full project details: https://crcna.com.au/projects/northern-australian-beef-sector-industry-situational-analysis-study/

Project investments:



Return on investment to date has been 2.1 return on the CRCNA's investment of $181,162.

Jobs created:

2 FTE during the 2 year project.

Projected impacts beyond 2026:

- The core findings of the project are expected to continue shaping strategic priorities in northern Australia's pastoral industry over the next decade—particularly guiding investment in road, maritime, and digital connectivity.
- The Situation Analysis will remain an important reference for future R&D investment in the northern pastoral sector, supporting ongoing improvements in productivity, sustainability, and competitiveness.





CRCNA
DEVELOPING NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Cooperative Research Centres Program

Research for **sustainable** and **inclusive** development of **northern Australia**.

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