IMPACT EVALUATION

Derisking and supply chain coordination

Project: AHT.7.2021021 and AHT.7.2324001 CRCNA's Investment Derisking and Supply Chain Coordination Program

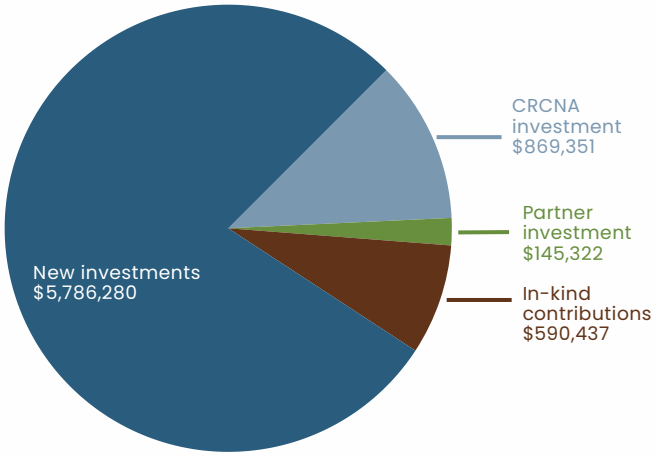
Research program:
7 –Policy development and de-risking investment solutions

Project timeframe:
2020 to 2026

Partners:
James Cook University

Project locations: Northern Australia

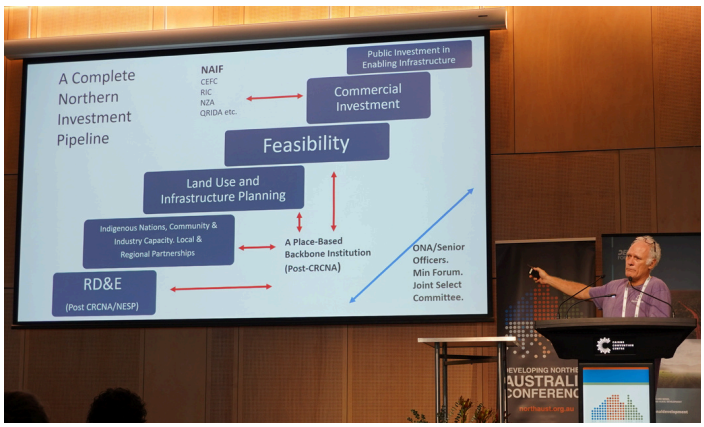
Project return on investments:



Return on investment to date has been at least a 7.5 times return on the CRCNA's investment of $869,351.

Jobs created:

6 FTE years during the 6 year project.



Project summary:
This two-phase project aimed to inform the government decision-making systems needed to lift investment in agricultural and other forms of sustainable development across Northern Australia. In doing so, it hoped to help support an increase in the gross value of development investment and better enable infrastructure investment across northern Australia over the long term.

Phase 1 of the Project included CRCNA's foundational situation analyses about these systems, which were delivered in partnership with the jurisdictions across Queensland, the NT and northern WA.

The Phase 2 project provided the leadership, coordination, research synthesis and policy impact behind the CRCNA's more targeted de-risking and supply chain development investments.

The key research activities undertaken included:

- Synthesising and promoting key policy and investment barriers for de-risking agricultural investments and supply chain investments;
- Progressing and supporting more targeted derisking and supply chain research and development to help facilitate action in all three jurisdictions under the CRCNA's de-risking and supply chain development program;
- Synthesising and exploring wider northern Australian policy and investment options emerging from common CRCNA research findings.

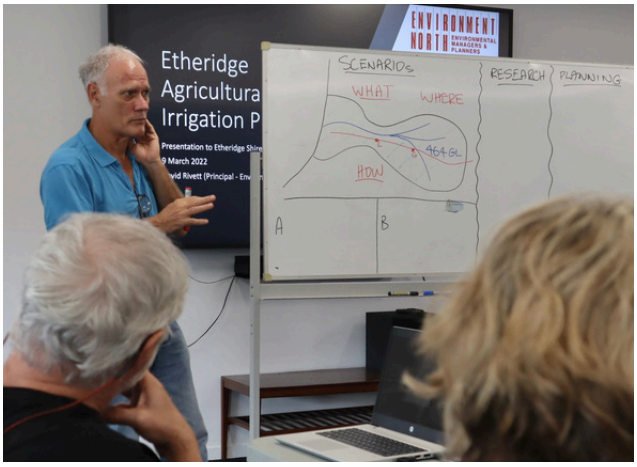
Project impacts to date:

New investment facilitated:

- $586,750 in NESP and JCU investment to explore regional planning and *EPBC Act* reform implications across northern Australia.
- $480,000 in NESP and JCU investment to examine regional planning and development assessment systems across WA, the NT and Queensland.
- $79,530 in DCCEEW funding to assess EPBC-related development risks and opportunities in North Queensland.
- $200,000 in DCCEEW funding to investigate regional coordination of environmental offset funds in northern Queensland.
- $4.44 million in estimated economic activity and investment influence associated with the Developing Northern Australia Conference from 2020 to 2025, supported through the Chief Scientist's leadership.

Additionally, the Project also:

- Supported Etheridge Shire Council to secure Queensland Government funding to progress agricultural development opportunities in the Gilbert catchment.
- Supported the NT Government in progressing new planning approaches in the Douglas Daly region.
- Contributed to the development and operation of innovative governance arrangements in Stage 2 of the Cape York Infrastructure Package.



Policy, planning and development outcomes

- Established the research foundations for further CRCNA investment in aquaculture development in WA, agricultural development in the Douglas Daly (NT), farmer capacity building and water security across northern Australia.
- Influenced Queensland's water infrastructure planning and investment priorities through participation in the Bradfield Regional Assessment and Development Panel (2022–2025), supporting a shift towards smaller regional water grids and locally appropriate water security solutions.
- Strengthened governance arrangements for remote road infrastructure delivery in Cape York and informed Infrastructure Australia's approach to assessing the benefits of remote road investment.
- Contributed scientific evidence and policy advice to national *EPBC Act* reform processes, including emerging environmental assessment standards.
- Informed the Australian Government's *Northern Australia Action Plan* and *NAIF Review*, particularly regarding ongoing research investment, infrastructure planning and place-based development.
- Advanced policy discussions on a proposed major enabling infrastructure package to strengthen transport connectivity and economic integration across WA, the NT, Queensland and the Indo-Pacific.



Projected impacts beyond 2026

- The Project is set to inform more regionalised delivery of major offset funds from development within North West Queensland and beyond over the coming decade.
- Lasting impacts on regional planning and development assessment improvements and private sector investment in the Pilbara, Douglas Daly & Gilbert River over the next decade.
- Continue to inform standards development and implementation of the *EPBC Act* reforms across northern Australia over the next decade.
- Continue to inform concepts and planning for major enabling infrastructure investment across northern Australia over the next 5 to 10 years.

Access full project details and reports:
https://crcna.com.au/projects/chief-scientist-supporting-research-impact-and-transitional-pathways-for-the-crcna/





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**.

Gurambilbarra Country, Wulgurukaba and Thul Garrie Waja Country, Bindal
Suite 5/ 281 Ross River Road Townsville Qld

CRCNA.COM.AU

CRCNA | 2026

This impact assessment has been developed in collaboration with the CRCNA and project partners. It draws on project reporting, stakeholder input and available evidence to assess project outcomes and potential longer-term impacts. Projected impacts are indicative and based on reasonable assumptions at the time of publication. Information contained in this assessment was considered accurate at the time of publishing.