IMPACT EVALUATION

Cherabin aquaculture

Project: AT.2.1718098 -Cherabin aquaculture and Indigenous business development

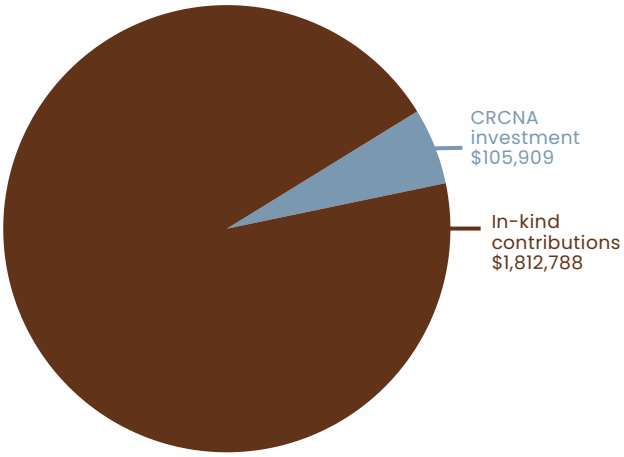
Research program:
2 – New and developing industries in northern Australia

Project timeframe:
2018 to 2021

Partners:
- North Regional TAFE
- Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation
- Ribinyung Dawang Aboriginal Corporation

Project locations: Broome, Derby WA

Project return on investments:



The CRCNA's investment of $105,909 supported a total project value of $1.92 million, representing an investment leverage ratio of 18.12:1. Commercial returns from the research have not been established.

Jobs created:

4 FTE years during the 2.5 year project

Project summary:
The CRCNA Cherabin aquaculture project investigated the potential for freshwater prawn production to support Indigenous enterprise and workforce development in northern Australia.

Delivered by North Regional TAFE's Broome Aquaculture Centre in partnership with Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation, the project combined accredited aquaculture training with research into hatchery production, larval rearing and growout systems.

Research identified important biological and operational requirements for cherabin production, including broodstock management, larval nutrition, water quality and post-larval survival.

A business development model, hatchery guidance and market research were also produced to inform future ventures.

While the project achieved its training objectives and advanced technical understanding, production results were inconsistent and commercial viability was not demonstrated.

The findings provide a useful evidence base for future aquaculture research and investment decisions.



Project impacts to date:

Increases in production:

- Refined hatchery and larval rearing techniques, identifying critical production requirements for cherabin under northern Australian conditions.
- Achieved a maximum reported batch of approximately 1,500 post-larvae at PL15, demonstrating production potential at experimental scale.
- Identified significant mortality risks, including temperature sensitivity, that require further investigation before reliable commercial production can be established.

Educational outcomes:

- Delivered Certificate II and III aquaculture training activities for Aboriginal participants, combining practical hatchery and farm-based learning.
- Built local skills in aquaculture operations, animal husbandry and production management.
- Identified opportunities to improve training delivery through more structured learning pathways and additional literacy and numeracy support.

Reduced costs and business risk:

- Developed hatchery guidance and a Cherabin Business Development Model to assist prospective producers in assessing production requirements.
- Identified technical and operational constraints that could inform future investment decisions and reduce the risk of pursuing unproven production systems.
- Highlighted gaps in growout data, production consistency and commercial performance requiring further research.

Indigenous enterprise development:

- Supported Indigenous participation in emerging aquaculture activities through industry partnerships, training and business planning.
- Produced market research and business development resources to inform potential Indigenous-led enterprises.
- Demonstrated the importance of integrating technical research, workforce development and commercial planning from the outset.



Projected impacts beyond 2026

- Application of hatchery protocols and production findings to future freshwater prawn aquaculture research.
- Further investigation of species identification, larval survival, temperature management and growout performance.
- Use of project training and business development resources to support Indigenous aquaculture initiatives.
- Potential development of Indigenous-led cherabin enterprises, subject to further technical validation and commercial feasibility assessment.

Access full project details and reports:
https://crcna.com.au/projects/cherabin/





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

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This impact assessment has been developed in collaboration with the CRCNA Chief Scientist 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.