



Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation

Canberra 30th November 2009

Acknowledgement of Ngunnawal People and Country

- We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we are meeting upon here today
- We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to country
- We also pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of Australia present here



Introduction

Remote Economic Participation Panel

Mr Paul Wand AM	Chair DKCRC and Chair-elect CRC-REP – independent
Mr Tom Calma	Deputy Chair-elect CRC-REP – independent
Ms Jan Ferguson	Managing Director, DKCRC and Ninti One Ltd
Prof Murray McGregor	General Manager Research, Curtin University
Dr Craig James	General Manager Commercialisation and Communication, CSIRO
Mr Harold Furber	Chair Desert Peoples Centre
Ms Glenise Coultard	Iga Warta Pty Ltd
Mr John Oster	Chief Executive Officer, desArt
Mr Mike Burgess	Chief Executive, Department of the Chief Minister NT
Dr Peter Twigg	Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation WA

Challenge

Economic and social disadvantage in remote Australia

- **Closing the Gap identifies**
 - Socioeconomic disadvantage in Remote Australia
 - Health and wellbeing poor
 - Population growth twice the National average
 - Acute and visible need for services in remote Australia
- **Unrealised opportunities**
 - Cost of not taking action is a loss of \$2.9 billion from the national economy*

* *Access Economics 2009*

Closing the gap

“As a nation, we must come together around this vision and take substantive action – Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, Commonwealth, state and territory governments and the wider community.”

Kevin Rudd Prime Minister February 2009

Research Partners

Principal partners



Project partners



Resources

Governance

Independent skills-based Board

Board charter

Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal representation

Three committees

Intellectual Property and Ethics

Audit and Risk Management

Research Quality

Unincorporated Joint Venture

Limited liability management company



Our approach

- **New ways of thinking**
 - Understanding of how remote economies work
- **Mixture of scientific approaches and social/cultural systems**
- **Bring about changes in socio-economic disadvantage**
- **Aspirational approach**
- **DKCRC worked with communities and environment rather than economies**



A 'wicked' problem ...

- Policy has failed because the mixture of hard and soft systems has not been explicitly embedded
- A wicked problem*
 - is difficult to clearly define
 - has many interdependencies that are multi-causal
 - can result in unforeseen consequences from attempts to address it
 - is not stable
 - has no clear solution
 - is not the responsibility of any one organisation
 - involves changing behaviour
 - is characterised by chronic policy failure

**Rittel and Webber. 1973. 'Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning', Policy Sciences, Vol. 4, No. 2*

Economic participation and wealth creation is the key to overcoming social and economic disadvantage in remote Australia

- **System of inter-related factors involving:**
 - Personal self-worth (sense of purpose)
 - Social and cultural cohesion
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Educational achievement (has purpose)
- **Economic participation is part of this system**
 - Must be discovered, not forced from without
 - Sense of entrepreneurship is vital



Specific Outcomes We Expect

Impact Tool modelling over 15+ years

2,118 new jobs

More than 100 new Aboriginal businesses

1,232 more efficient and profitable small- to medium-sized enterprises

Additional profitability in remote pastoral industry of \$292 million

Savings on welfare payments of \$160 million

Increased educational, health and wellbeing standards for remote Australians



Characteristics of remote Australia

People and place



Remote Australia

World's oldest living culture

**Small settlements,
big distances**

High level of mobility

**Variability – climate, economy,
policies**

**70% of land area contributes
\$90 billion (45% export
earnings)**

**40,000 SMEs: 1½ times more
per capita than the national
average**

Research to achieve economic participation

Three Programs all new activities

Regional Economies

**Synergies
between
people,
community
and businesses**

Enterprise Development

**More
opportunities
and more
effective
businesses**

Investing in People

**Preparedness
and
entrepreneurial
skills
development**

Research

Creation of CRC-REP research Programs and Projects

Workshops

Canvas ideas, drawing out problems and drivers

Refinement of ideas

Converting problems to researchable questions

Project development

Researcher Workshops

Focus on remote economic systems

End users

Governments, community leaders, businesses, relevant research partners



Research

Example Pathways – Program 1 Regional Economies

Transformations

- Stronger regional economies
- Resilience in settlements
- More reliable local and regional labour markets

Innovation

- Micro mobility studies at large scale and at individual level
- Modelling mobility in visualisation tools for end users to readily adopt and scenario plan

Commercialisation and Usage

- Communities, companies and governments using frameworks and tools through embedding in research
- Regional forums throughout project life to engage stakeholders

Research Example Pathways – Program 2 Enterprise Development

Transformations

- More remote business opportunities and more effective and sustainable businesses

Innovation

- Developing business models based on a combination of hard and social sciences
- Frameworks drawn from DKCRC work underpin methods
- Innovative research combined with social frameworks

Commercialisation and Usage

- RemoteBiz™ implemented as diffusion mechanism
- New and Innovative business opportunities
- High-tech results:
 - Manage & protect IP
 - Commercialise invention

Research

Example Pathways – Program 3 Investing in People

Transformations

- Solving a policy conundrum
- Understanding impact of relative levels of investment in different *Closing The Gap* targets
- Baseline evidence for future evaluation

Innovation

- Creating a world first systems model of social, health and biophysical factors for an Indigenous situation
 - Conceptual model
 - Bio-med data
 - Agent-based modelling

Commercialisation and Usage

- Engagement of governments to ensure input and feedback through COAG
- Leverage from Aboriginal Health CRC collaboration

Research

Partners 30% Aboriginal Organisations

Regional Economies

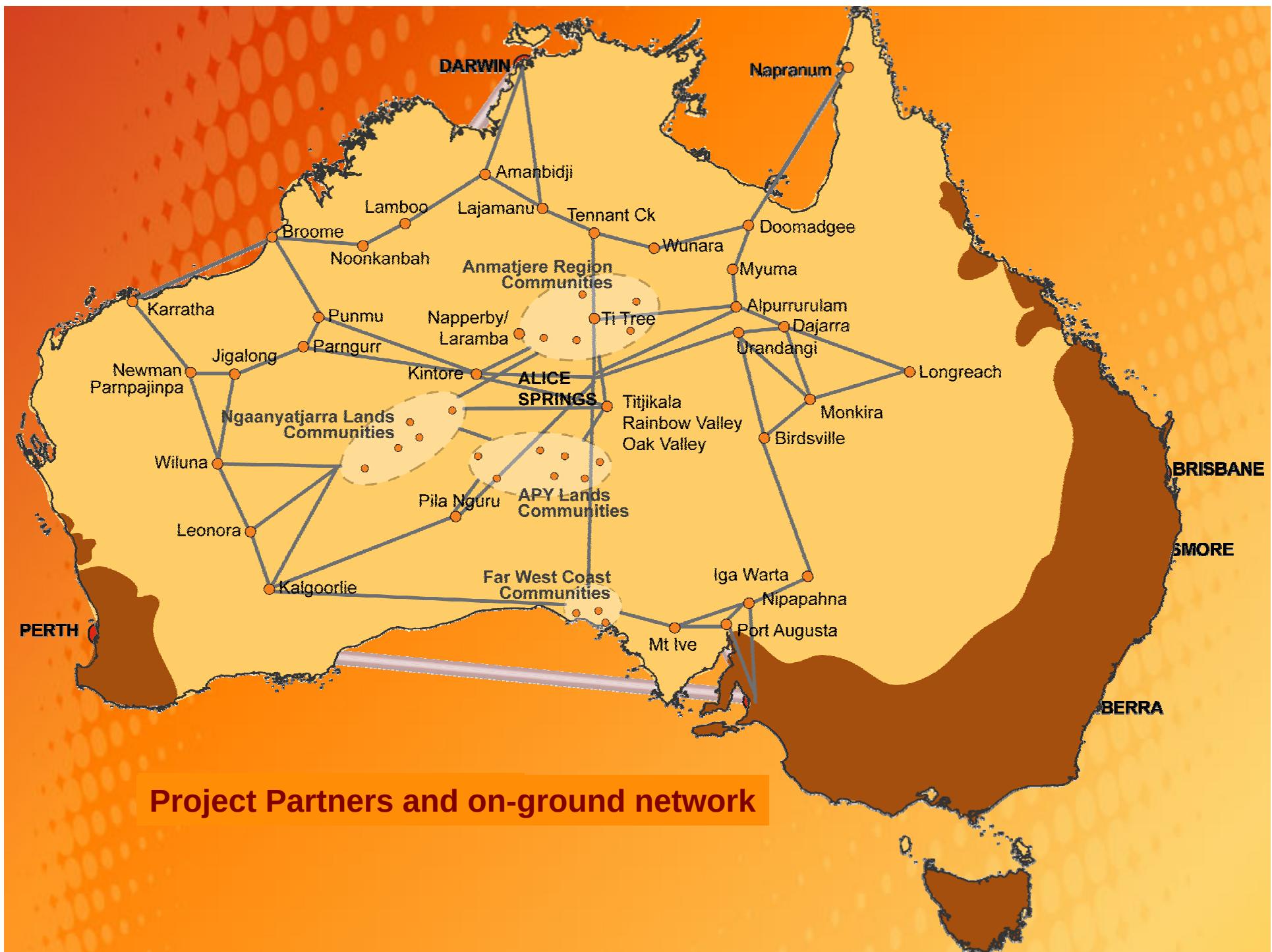


Enterprise Development



Investing in People





Education and training program

Beyond 'Welcome To Country'

	DKCRC	CRC-REP
Postgraduate and undergraduate training	47	➤ 33
Vocational training, traineeships,	7	➤ 7
Aboriginal researchers	~20	70
Mentoring program	-	12
Specific Aboriginal post graduate support	-	6

Results

Track record on Outcomes

Housing and services

Alice Springs Town Camps
- \$120 million

Water systems program –
FaHCSIA

Natural resource management

Feral camels – on national
agenda; \$38 million; Camel
Action Plan

Remote businesses

Scotdesco, Leonora, central
Australian SMEs
Pastoral businesses



Results

Ability to deliver benefit

Networks, partnerships and effective collaboration

- Multidisciplinary teams
- Strong relationships
- International partnerships

Aboriginal Intellectual Property protocols

Diffusion strategies

- Communication: Multi-lingual, electronic, hard copy, visual
- Embedded end users
- RemoteBiz™
- Field days
- Parliamentary and policy briefings



Resources

Need for a CRC to tackle challenges

DKCRC sets the scene

Meta data

Collaborative & multi-disciplinary research teams

Genuine Aboriginal engagement

Evidence base for 'wicked' policy problems

Research aligned with end-user and relevant diffusion strategies needs

Critical mass of research investment

human geography, social science, anthropology
systems science, spatial and quantitative modelling
demographic modelling, education systems
health research, regional economics
management science, business modelling
policy analysis, distributed energy systems
carbon and climate science, plant genetics
plant breeding, remote sensing



National and International Importance

UN Declaration of the rights of Indigenous Peoples Article 21

Powering ideas

- Publicly funded research addressing immediate practical problems

Closing Gap Indigenous Economic Development

- Fresh ideas – long-term commitment
- Data collection improvements
- Directly addresses 4 out of 7 COAG strategic areas of action

Productivity Commission Economic Participation

- Economic activity from art, tourism, native foods



Economic participation and wealth creation is essential

- **Unique partnership able to deliver on the Challenge**
- **Established relationships and trusted position**
- **Substantial contribution to \$2.9b opportunity cost**
- **Monetary benefits of at least \$207m (B/C 1.7)**
- **Decreased welfare dependency**
- **Health and well being outcomes**
- **Increased literacy and numeracy**
- **Inter-generational benefits**