



Thriving Coasts CRC

Information for partners

The Thriving Coasts CRC will drive economic growth and recovery, helping to advance productive and sustainable industries, and build long-term resilience in Australia's vital coastal communities.

Australia's coastal zone supports a wealth of land and sea-based industries including tourism, shipping, transport, residential development, recreation, and critical infrastructure such as water and waste utilities. Adjacent marine and estuarine ecosystems underpin locally valued and globally renowned seafood and aquaculture.

With 85% of Australia's population living within 100km of the coast, development and resource use in this zone is becoming increasingly complex, contested and challenging to resolve with changing economic, social and environmental forces at play.

As competition for space and resources increases, the Thriving Coasts CRC provides a vital platform for coastal stakeholders to explore new and innovative ways to co-develop technologies, processes and solutions that will enable coastal industries, communities and ecosystems to thrive and prosper.

The impact of floods, bushfires and the unprecedented COVID-19 global pandemic means the ongoing productivity and resilience of our coastal industries and ecosystems is at serious risk. The Thriving Coasts CRC will bring industry, small and medium enterprises, governments, researchers and coastal communities together to ensure the people, industries and ecosystems of our coasts are better able to recover, revitalise and become more resilient to ongoing change and future shocks through innovative research and development.

The Thriving Coasts CRC will help develop innovative Australian coastal industries and build prosperous, vibrant and resilient coastal communities for the future.

What is a CRC?

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Program is a Commonwealth Government program providing funding for up to 10 years.

CRCs are independent entities, established and governed as incorporated companies limited by guarantee and comprising industry-driven collaborations between industry, researchers and the community. The focus is on research and development that will have commercial and practical applications

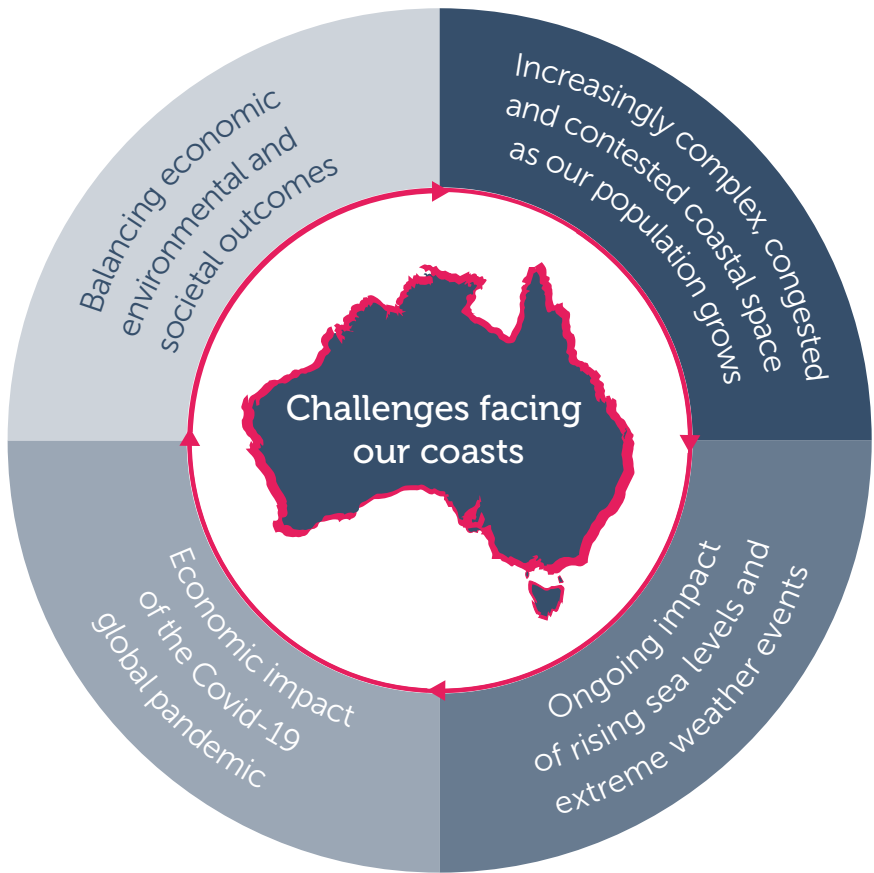
The CRC program aims to improve the competitiveness, productivity and sustainability of Australian industries, especially in government priority areas, use high quality research to solve industry-identified problems, and encourage SMEs to take part in collaborative research.

With more than 226 CRCs being funded since the program's commencement, the Australian Government has committed more than \$4.5 billion in CRC funding.

Australia's coastal industries contribute billions of dollars to local, state, and national economies and provide employment for hundreds of thousands of people.

THE CHALLENGE

The challenge facing our coasts is complex and multi-faceted, demanding collaborative and multi-disciplinary approaches to recovery and resilience.



THE OPPORTUNITY

The Thriving Coasts CRC will help:

- > Reboot Australia's world-class tourism sector devastated by the impact of Covid-19
- > Reposition Australia's aquaculture and fisheries sector and place it on a globally competitive growth trajectory
- > Protect Australia's critical coastal infrastructure and population centres with more efficient and cost-effective technologies and solutions
- > Enable Australian technology, engineering and other coastal service SMEs to grow their businesses and pursue significant export opportunities
- > Provide governments at all levels with better science for decision making, policy development, risk assessment, and monitoring.
- > Help develop effective alternatives and opportunities for carbon offset
- > Secure the health, restoration and integrity of our coastal environment for future generations



INTENDED OUTCOMES

Australia’s coastal industries, ecosystems and communities are under critical threat from four key forces:

- > the economic impact of Covid-19;
- > increasingly complex, congested and contested coastal space as the population grows;
- > the ongoing impact of extreme weather events and climate change; and
- > the ability to balance economic, environmental and societal outcomes.

By working together to address these complex and challenging forces, the CRC will deliver benefits for our key partnering industries and government agencies, including:

Travel and Tourism



- > Better data for strategic planning and investment decision making
- > International competitive advantage
- > Industry recovery and innovation
- > New tourism ventures and developments

Fisheries and Aquaculture



- > Production and yield improvements
- > Restoration and restocking solutions
- > Adoption of new technologies
- > Industry growth and export opportunities
- > Product diversification and price premiums

Port and Harbour Authorities



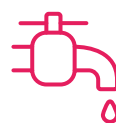
- > More efficient risk assessment
- > Improved infrastructure planning
- > Optimised dredging activity
- > Robust investment decision making

Coastal Engineering and Services



- > Streamlined decision making
- > New and advanced technologies
- > Industry supply chain growth
- > New export opportunities

Water Utilities

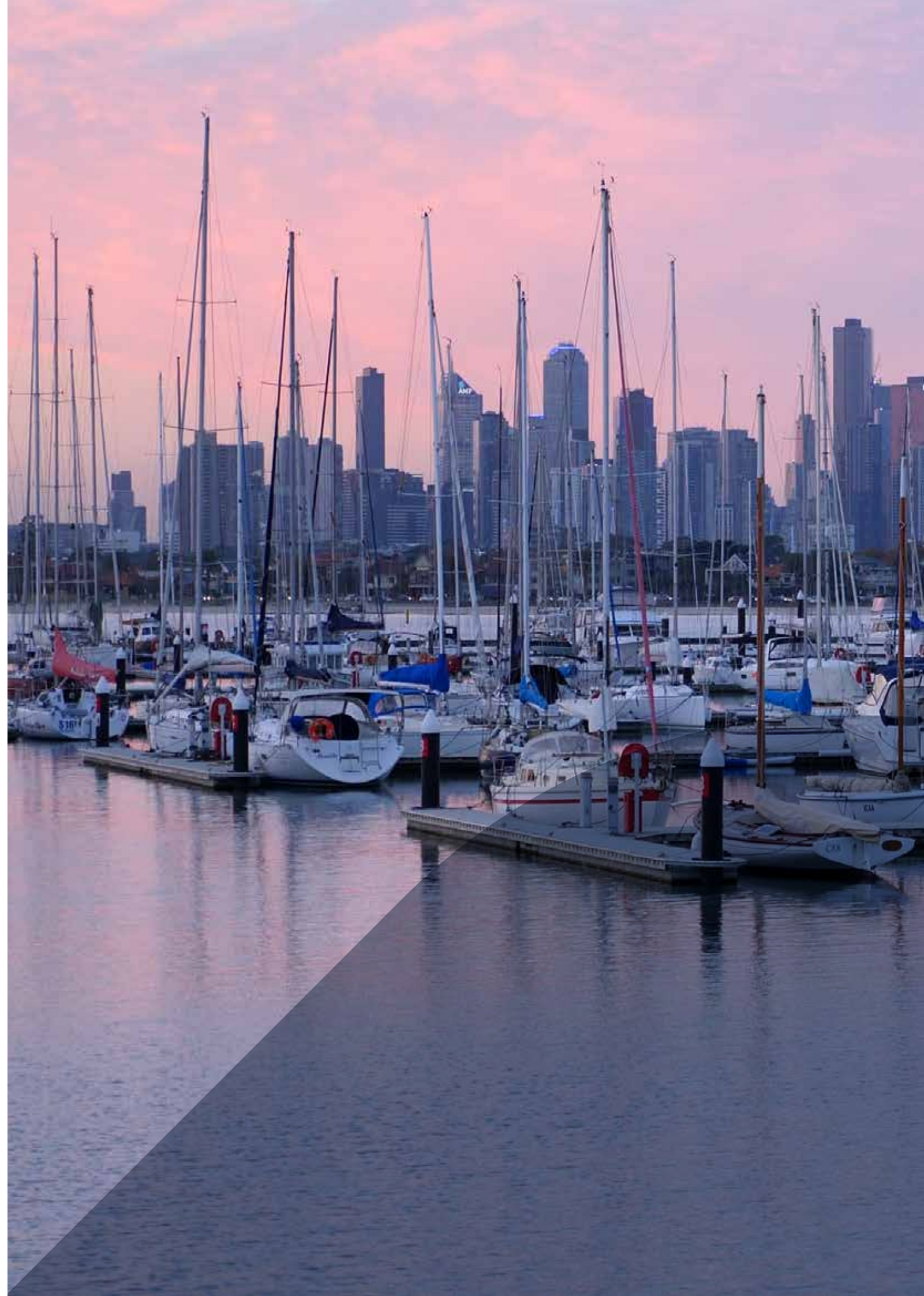


- > More efficient risk assessment
- > Improved infrastructure planning
- > Robust investment decision making
- > Carbon, waste and nutrient offsets

Federal, State and Local Government Agencies



- > Greater decision making confidence
- > More efficient risk assessment
- > More integrated regulatory/policy frameworks
- > Economic recovery and growth
- > The health and integrity of our environment for future generations



RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Program 1: Advancing industries and recovery

Providing integrated solutions that fast-track and streamline decision-making across jurisdictions to boost industry development, tourism and economic recovery.

Potential research projects:

- 1.1. Growing Australia's market share of coastal and aquatic tourism
- 1.2. Rebooting Australia's cruise tourism industry
- 1.3. Rebuilding aviation and cruise routes
- 1.4. Development of coastal Indigenous tourism experiences
- 1.5. Integrated tourism destination management, planning and performance measurement
- 1.6. Disentangling cumulative impacts to enhance environmental stewardship for coastal industries
- 1.7. Automation for rapid industrial and environmental monitoring
- 1.8. Land-use planning for populous coastal regions
- 1.9. Streamlined approval for coastal development



Program 2: Boosting productivity and sustainability

Providing coastal industries with new tools, solutions and technologies to increase their production and catalyse new business opportunities and ventures in sustainable ways.

Potential research projects:

- 2.1. Refreshing aquaculture priorities through diversification and better waste management
- 2.2. Restocking solutions for commercial and recreational fisheries
- 2.3. Utilisation and development impacts for natural resources under environmental change
- 2.4. Restoring our living coastlines to offset development
- 2.5. National guidelines for coastal developments, habitat restoration, restocking fisheries and aquaculture expansion
- 2.6. Circular economy of catchment to coast - new products, services and business linkages to boost sustainable production and create jobs



Program 3: Quantifying and realising value

Quantifying the cumulative benefits of coastal solutions using market-based tools, policy instruments and community engagement to realise the value of environmental stewardship and sustainable growth.

Potential research projects:

- 3.1. Establishing the demand side of the seafood value chain
- 3.2. Social impact of wastewater management and desalinisation
- 3.3. Targeting investment in coastal defence
- 3.4. Balancing environmental health and community wealth for port development
- 3.5. Removing the roadblocks for trading 'blue' offsets
- 3.6. Sustainable regional economies - new business ventures in ecotourism and seafood production
- 3.7. Engaging Indigenous business in coastal enterprise
- 3.8. Integrated models to determine the ROI in new major tourism developments
- 3.9. Insurance for tourism enterprises in the face of changing environmental conditions

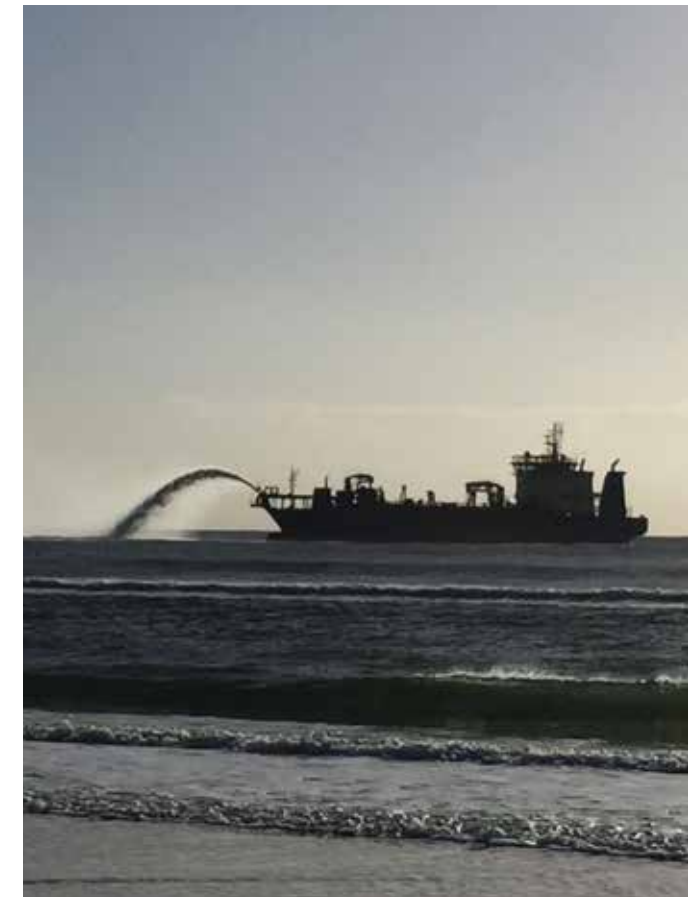


Program 4: Building long-term resilience

Providing tools, solutions and technologies to better manage the impacts of extreme weather events and future changes on critical infrastructure and population centres in the coastal zone

Potential research projects:

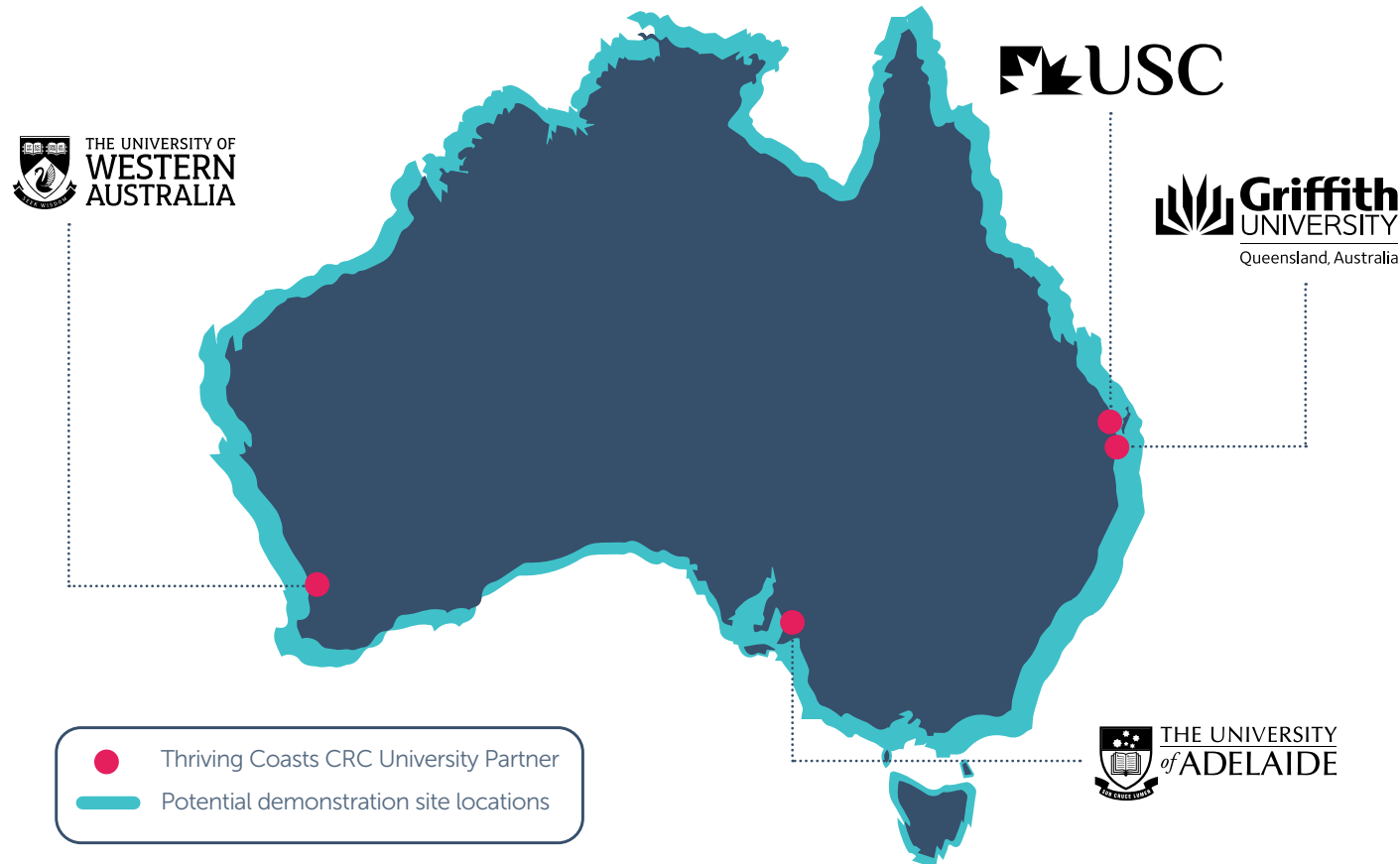
- 4.1. Development of a national framework for implementation of nature-based coastal protection initiatives
- 4.2. Application of broad scale coastal monitoring technologies to quantify changes
- 4.3. Integrated decision support system for improving productivity and long-term resilience
- 4.4. Development of optimal climate adaptation and mitigation strategies for infrastructure
- 4.5. The Blue Boomerang - placing Australia at the forefront of dive ecotourism
- 4.6. Waterway management decision support - navigating our way to a blue highway



DEMONSTRATION SITES

The Thriving Coasts CRC will establish coastal demonstration sites across Australia to act as focal points for our research and development in contested and congested coastal spaces. These sites will enable concentrated effort to be applied to unique challenges, bringing together industry, government and community

interests to devise, apply and test integrated and innovative solutions. Applying a rigorous monitoring and evaluation framework, these demonstration sites will enable lessons to be learned and applied more widely across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.



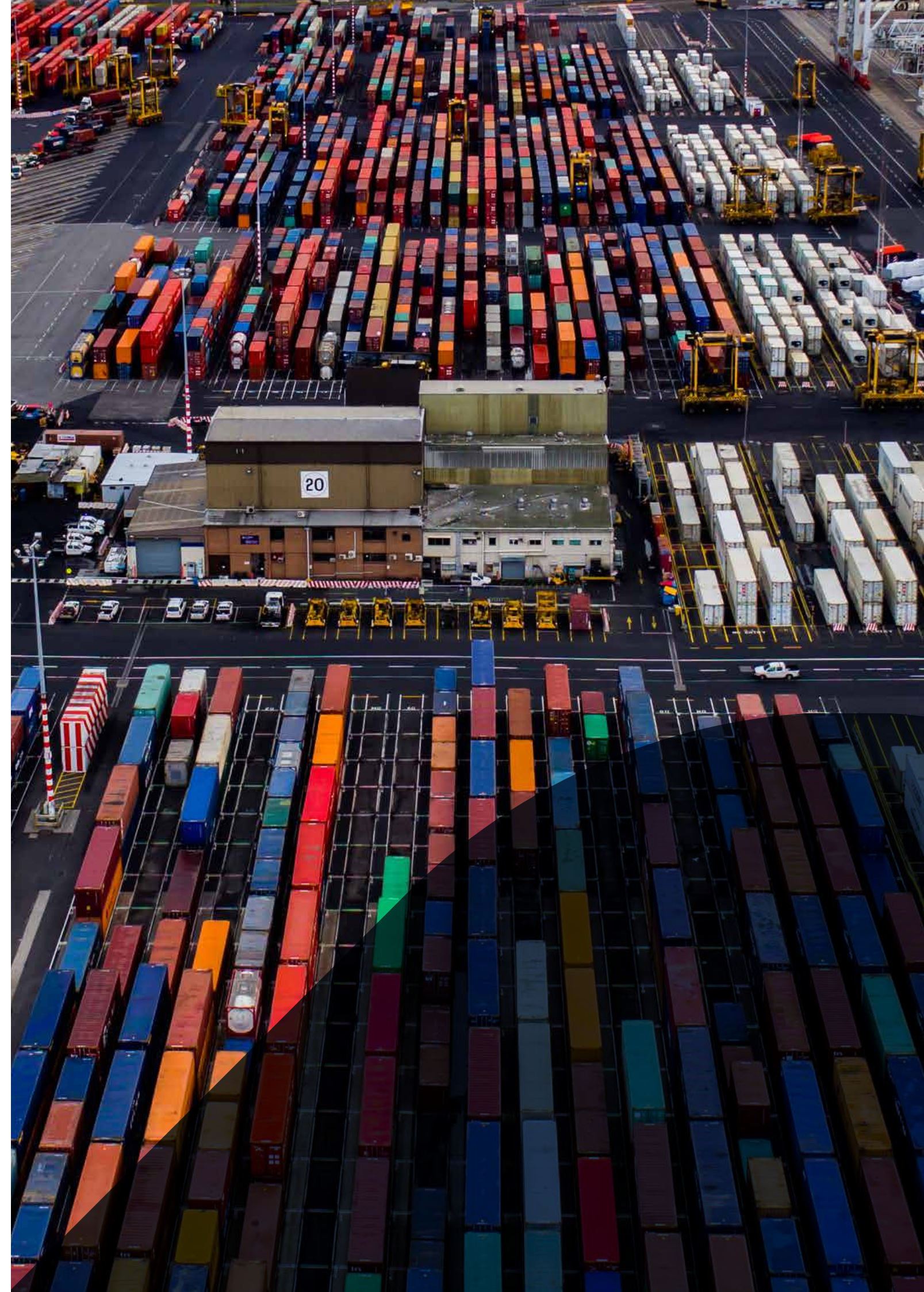
EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM

The Thriving Coasts CRC presents a unique opportunity to provide high quality education and training through university-based programs as well as vocational skills development through partnerships with TAFE colleges, as well as coastal community engagement programs.

Aspects of the education and training program such as commercialisation of knowledge and entrepreneurship will prepare the next generation of coastal industry business leaders, managers, operators and future-ready employees.

The program will provide for:

- > A significant number of Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates: PhDs and Masters by Research
- > Customised programs in business, leadership, commercialisation and driving innovation which will generate highly valued and effective workplace candidates
- > Tertiary programs that provide graduates with the skills, knowledge and aptitudes required for incorporating environmental sustainability in their field of studies
- > Flexible vocational, trade and micro credential courses
- > Innovation centres that foster creativity among the CRC's partners and other SME and start-ups, particularly those working in the digital technology space
- > Education and engagement programs that encourage community stewardship of the coast.



WHY BECOME A PARTNER?

The benefits to CRC partners are considerable but will vary. In broad terms the Thriving Coasts CRC will provide partners with several unique benefits not available through any other mechanism. These include:

- > Being part of the nation’s largest and highest profile collaboration focused on building economic growth through thriving coasts and industries
- > Having access to an expected \$100 million to \$150 million of resources secured through this collaborative effort
- > Having access to high quality impactful research and translation outcomes with partner contributions expected to account for 15% to 20% of total CRC resources
- > Being able to influence the direction of these resources and be at the forefront of development in the sector
- > Building valuable networks as well as having access to Australia’s world-leading researchers

Unlike many research programs, the CRC program is applied to the priority needs of partners and has a strong technology transfer focus.

The Thriving Coasts CRC will include a focus on addressing workforce and skills shortages and will help job creation in coastal communities

Partner contributions may be eligible for R&D tax concessions (Please refer to business.gov.au and the Australian Tax Office)

WHO SHOULD PARTNER?

A wide range of partners could benefit by being involved in the Thriving Coasts CRC including::

- > Port authorities, asset holders and port service providers
- > Commercial and recreational fishing industry sectors and flow-on businesses
- > Aquaculture industry sectors and operators
- > Water or waste treatment utilities, and treatment-focused SMEs
- > Local councils and regional development authorities
- > Coastal development companies
- > Financiers, lenders, investors and insurers
- > Tourism companies and associations
- > Manufacturing, engineering and environmental management companies with interests in coastal infrastructure and assets
- > Environmental NGO’s and philanthropic trusts
- > Indigenous communities, land management organisations and businesses
- > Companies within the technology, data and business intelligence sector
- > Research-focused businesses with an interest and capability in industry development
- > Government agencies with responsibility for managing coastal resources and activities and the need to achieve regulatory reform

GOVERNANCE

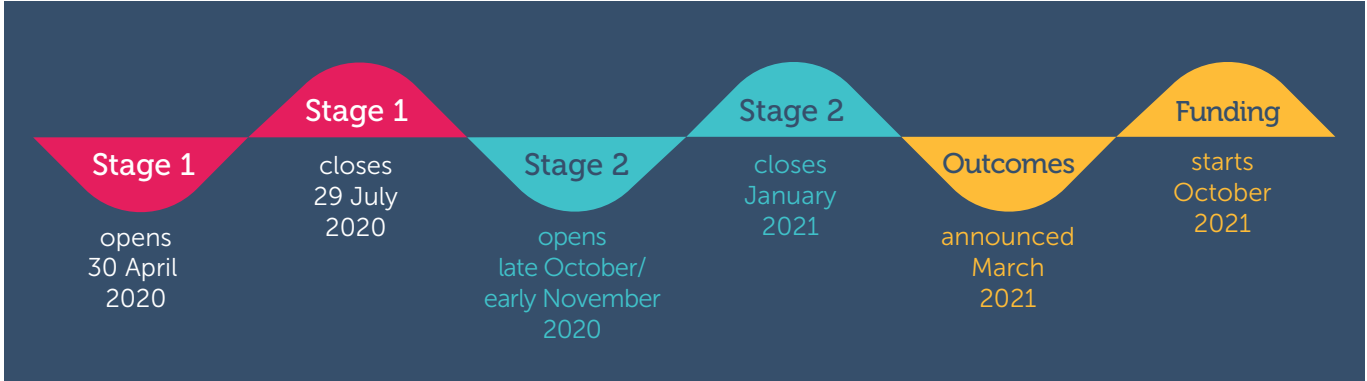
The Thriving Coasts CRC has a draft term sheet, developed in consultation with participants, which sets out the governance and management of the CRC. This draft will form part of the package of information made available to CRC partners.

The Thriving Coasts CRC will be established as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. It will be governed by a skills-based board, with the majority of directors independent of the participants. A Research Advisory Panel, chaired by a skills-based director, along with other members elected from participants and external experts, will be responsible for reviewing research proposals against criteria pertaining to industry need, commercial potential and scientific basis.

Following assessment, the Research Advisory Panel will make recommendations to the Board for a proposal’s approval and/or to participants for its further development.

The CRC will maintain a flexible approach in considering options for ownership and use of Intellectual Property (IP) beyond a default position of the Thriving Coasts CRC owning the legal title to the IP, with alternative arrangements stipulated in Project Agreements. The CRC will have two participant categories, one for research institutes and the other for non-research institutes such as industry and government

APPLICATION TIMELINE





MORE INFORMATION

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