



The New South Wales Research Advisory Committee provides advice to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation on fishing and aquaculture research, development and extension.

## 6.1 NSW Research Advisory Committee RDE Plan

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## 1. About the FRDC

The FRDC is a statutory corporation within the Australian Government's Agriculture portfolio and is accountable to the Parliament of Australia through the Minister for Agriculture. The portfolio aims to enhance the sustainability, profitability and competitiveness of Australia's agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry industries.

The FRDC contributes to the achievement of this aim through the following planned outcome:

*Increased economic, social and environmental benefits for Australian fishing and aquaculture, and the wider community, by investing in knowledge, innovation, and marketing.*

It is governed by a chair (selected by the Minister), a board of directors (selected by an industry selection committee) and an executive director (selected by the board). The board has a number of advisory committees including a network of research advisory committees (RAC) representing the Commonwealth, state and Northern Territory fishing and aquaculture jurisdictions.

It receives its funding from commercial fishers and farmers paid through permits and from the Commonwealth Government that matches the industry contributions on the basis of three dollars for every one industry dollar.

For detailed information regarding the structure, administration and operations of the FRDC visit [www.frdc.com.au](http://www.frdc.com.au).

## 2. About the NSW RAC

Under the provisions of its RD&E Plan 2015 - 2020, the FRDC provides greater ownership and authority to aforementioned jurisdictions in developing and providing advice on RD&E priorities through RACs, Industry Partnership Agreements (IPA) and other advisory structures.

The role of the NSW RAC is to act on behalf of the jurisdiction of NSW with respect to the following:

- In consultation with its stakeholders develop a jurisdictional five year RD&E plan aligned with the FRDC's RD&E Plan.
- Establish an annual process to enact the plan, taking into account other RD&E plans and priorities developed by other RACs, IPAs and other advisory structures; so as to encourage collaboration and co-funding of projects.
- Ensure as far as practicable that RD&E priorities are balanced across the programs of the FRDC RD&E Plan and contain a mix of basic and applied RD&E.
- Encourage collaboration between researchers, fisheries managers, and industry, both within and across jurisdictions.
- Invite RD&E applications to address identified priorities.
- Recommend RD&E expenditure to the FRDC within the RAC allocated budget including opportunities for other sources of funding.
- Maintain a strategic direction and be responsive to changing circumstances
- Promote the best scientific methods.

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- Communicate regularly with potential beneficiaries and other stakeholders through existing networks and FRDC communication channels.
- Facilitate the adoption of RD&E results.
- Assess project stop/go points.
- Provide reports on RAC activities to the FRDC for inclusion in the FRDC's annual report.

The NSW RAC is expertise based and comprises an independent chair and up to eight other members all of whom are selected by a joint FRDC – Department of Primary Industries (DPI) selection committee. They serve for a term of three years but may nominate or be nominated for successive terms. Aside from the Chair the members are not remunerated.

The RAC normally meets face-to-face three times a year.

### 3. About this Plan

The NSW RAC recognises extant RD&E plans of its primary stakeholders, and therefore, rather than develop another layer of planning, it has adopted the following sectoral plans as stand-alone component parts of its plan.

Part A. [NSW Commercial Wild-Harvest Fishing RD&E Strategic Plan 2018-2023](#)

Part B. [NSW Aquaculture Research Advisory Committee RD&E Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022](#)

Part C. [NSW Recreational Fishing Advisory Council's research plan](#) - currently being developed

Part D. [NSW DPI Fisheries Research Strategic Plan 2014 – 18](#) - currently being updated

The NSW Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council does not have an RD&E plan; however, one of its functions is to provide advice (including to the NSW RAC) on research priorities relating to Aboriginal people's connection with the fisheries resource. Further, the NSW RAC refers to the National Indigenous Reference Group RD&E Plan.

There is considerable overlapping of RD&E priorities between these sectoral plans as there are between all RAC and other relevant plans. Therefore, the role of the RAC, as described above, is to develop and maintain an RD&E portfolio that best addresses both its jurisdictional priorities and those of other jurisdictions, the FRDC and other planning structures. This will help to ensure an efficient and a collaborative approach to RD&E investment nationally.

The RAC will review its plan annually to assess its continued relevance and how well it has addressed the priority areas.

It will also encourage the annual review of the sectoral component parts of its plan.

### 4. RAC priority setting

The RAC will maintain a rolling list of RD&E priorities that it will review at each of its three meetings throughout the year and that will guide its decision making. The list will take into account:

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- priorities in the RAC's plan
- responses to the RAC's annual call to its stakeholders for RD&E ideas
- changes in the industry's business environment
- urgent needs
- national priorities
- priorities of other jurisdictions, the FRDC and other priority setting structures
- other circumstances

At its meeting in July the RAC will determine the priorities that the Chair will take to the FRDC biennial planning workshop at which national and other collaborative opportunities, amongst other matters, are discussed.

## 5. Performance

The RAC will measure performance on the three following levels:

- At plan level it will measure how well its RD&E portfolio addresses the priorities in its plan, and to what extent it has achieved a balance between FRDC programs and basic and applied research.
- At priority level it will measure how well its priority setting process results in identifying end-user needs.
- At project level it will measure how well projects have delivered planned outputs and the extent to which those outputs have been adopted.

## Further information

For further information regarding this plan contact the FRDC on 02 6285 0400 or [frdc@frdc.com.au](mailto:frdc@frdc.com.au)