

Portfolio Budget Statement performance measures	Targets 2017–18	Results
Projects focus on the FRDC Board’s assessment of priority R&D issues.	Ninety-five per cent are a priority.	Achieved.
Projects are assessed as meeting high standards/peer review requirements for improvements in performance and likely adoption.	Ninety-five per cent are a high priority.	Achieved.
Maintain ISO9001:2008 accreditation.	FRDC maintains certification.	Achieved.
Submit planning and reporting documents in accordance with legislative and Australian Government requirements and time frames.	One hundred per cent met government requirements.	Achieved.
Implement best practice governance arrangements to promote transparency, good business performance and unqualified audits.	Achieve unqualified audit result.	Achieved.
Demonstrate the benefits of RD&E investments by positive benefit cost analysis results.	Benefit cost analysis on one investment area.	Achieved.
Positive perceptions of the commercial fishing industry increase from 28–40% by 2020 as measured through the independently-commissioned FRDC stakeholder survey.	Perception of industry increases to 30%.	2018 survey results show that 36% of respondents believe the industry is sustainable.
Provide RD&E to support increased trade of fishing and aquaculture products into countries with free trade agreements by 300% by 2020.	One report on quantity of potential production from Australia’s fishing and aquaculture resources.	Report due for completion in 2018–19.
	Report detailing non-tariff barriers to trade.	Report completed.
Two to three new aquaculture species that are seeing good productivity and profitability growth measured by increase in tonnage from other species.	One thousand tonnes of additional production.	Forecasts indicate production will exceed target.

From the FRDC Chair: The Hon. Ron Boswell

It is pleasing to provide a short report on our performance against priorities and performance indicators (as shown in the Portfolio Budget Statement performance measures).

Throughout the year FRDC focused on promoting sustainability, improving productivity and profitability and growing aquaculture with many significant projects initiated and completed.

The key issues addressed during the year included: biosecurity, partly due the White Spot Disease outbreak in South Queensland in 2016, and the subsequent review and development of the Emergency Aquatic Animal Disease Response Agreement. Various sectors including Atlantic Salmon and Barramundi will continue to focus on increasing biosecurity readiness to reduce future risks.

Development of the National Carp Control Plan (NCCP) is well underway with research projects addressing key issues. The NCCP team has also been talking with river communities to capture issues, concerns and ideas. From October 2017 to March 2018 the NCCP hosted 73 events in more than 40 locations.

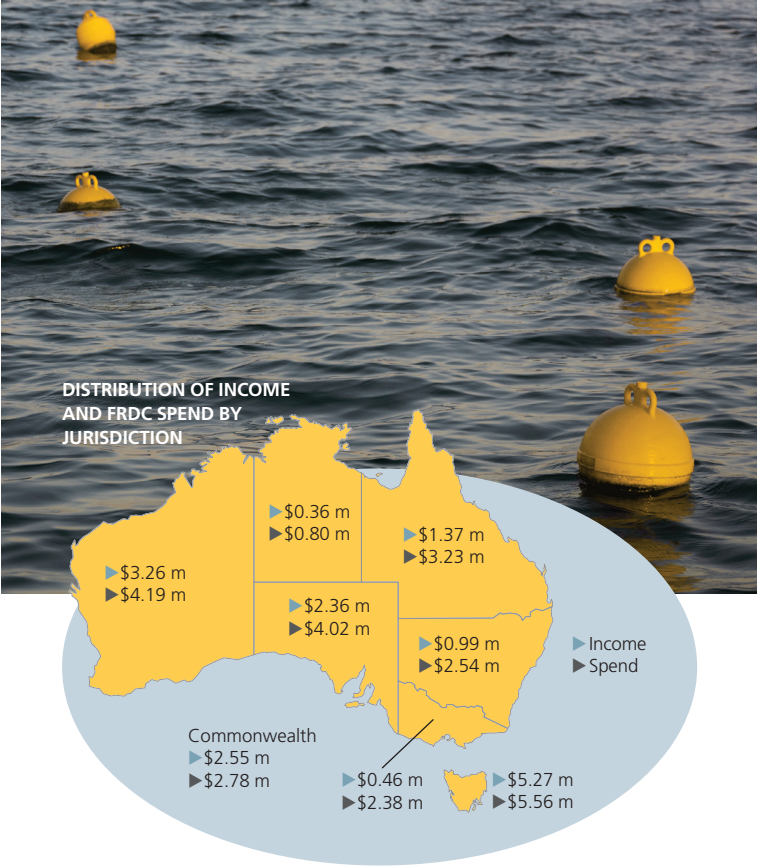
Marine safety is a major issue across all fishing and aquaculture. Statistics on the rates of injury and death remain among the highest for any primary production sector. In response, the FRDC has invested in several projects to improve safety at sea.

The FRDC continues to listen to feedback from its stakeholders, through its jurisdictional Research Advisory Committees and Indigenous Reference Group to ensure its investments remain targeted, relevant and deliver a balanced portfolio of activity.

Our investment in improving engagement with stakeholders has also started to pay dividends. Our annual stakeholder survey shows the FRDC remains well regarded by stakeholders with most satisfied with the approach taken to get information, make comment, and the areas where investment has been made.

Our financial income target was \$36.23 million and we achieved \$36.00 million. One area where the FRDC did not meet its target was project expenditure at \$26.00 million, which was less than the budgeted figure of \$30.20 million.

The FRDC has worked with other rural research and development corporations on common issues that deliver value for fishing and aquaculture stakeholders. We have been active participants in Rural R&D for Profit projects such as Accelerating Precision Agriculture to Decision Agriculture and Insights2Innovation.



The FRDC Board would like to thank the Australian Government and its stakeholders from across the commercial, recreational and Indigenous sectors for their continued support over the last year. Government and industry engagement play a vital role in ensuring high-quality research priorities are identified and addressed.

The Board thanks its representative organisations for their ongoing and valued collaboration. The success of the FRDC also depends on the contributions of many other bodies and agencies, including:

- peak and representative bodies (from all sectors),
- Commonwealth, state and territory fisheries management and research agencies,
- Research Advisory Committees,
- the FRDC’s subprogram and coordination leaders and their committees,
- the many researchers who work on FRDC projects, and
- the numerous interested people and seafood consumers FRDC engages with.



The 2017–18 annual report not only outlines the achievements over the financial year but also where they contributed to the third year of FRDC’s strategic plan 2015–20.

Objectives initiated in 2015 are now ‘bringing in the catch’ which is the graphic theme of the report.

Key results in 2017–18

- Australia’s seafood gross value of production (GVP) exceeds \$3.0 billion.
- Seafood Industry Australia was approved as a new FRDC representative organisation.
- The FRDC’s Indigenous Reference Group developed a series of recommendations to overcome constraints in achieving positive social and economic outcomes for Indigenous communities.
- A vaccine for pilchard orthomyxovirus was developed to protect farmed Atlantic Salmon.
- The FRDC worked with industry partners and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority to coordinate a national RD&E marine safety and welfare initiative aimed at minimising workplace accidents.
- The National Carp Control Plan team progressed activities in all areas, including engagement with stakeholders (government, councils, primary producers and river communities).
- The inaugural national Fish and Chips Awards was run as a pilot to engage with consumers, and deliver key messages on the sustainability that underpins Australia’s fisheries management.
- Trials on the nutritional requirements for Yellowtail Kingfish led to an experimental diet to reduce feed costs and optimise the growth and performance of farmed fish.
- The pilot Whichfish website was launched to assist businesses determine the stock, environmental and management risks associated with the seafood they buy and sell.
- The FRDC partnered with X-Lab and the Cotton Research and Development Corporation to run a series of agile development ‘microhack’ workshops aimed at fostering innovation in the seafood industry.
- Agreement has been reached on the additional 37 species to be included in the 2018 edition of the Status of Australian Fish Stocks (SAFS), bringing the total number of species to 120.
- The FRDC partnered with all 14 rural research and development corporations in several Rural R&D for Profit Program projects. The Accelerating Precision Agriculture to Decision Agriculture project has highlighted that a significant increase in GVP can result through data, automation and labour savings.
- Test kits were validated and implemented to improve detection of paralytic shellfish toxins for the Tasmanian shellfish industry.
- Methodology progressed to determine the social and economic value of the recreational fishing sector at a national level.

2017–18 achievements through investment

The tables in this summary only include figures for this financial year and are condensed from those that appear in *FRDC’s Annual Report 2017–18*. For the full report go to www.frdc.com.au.

TABLE 1: INCOME 2017–18

	Budget ¹	Actual
	\$m	\$m
Total income	36.23	36.00
Industry contributions	7.59	9.04
Total government contributions	22.37	22.71
Project funds from other parties	5.50	2.02
Other revenue	0.26	2.23

1. Annual Operational Plan budget 2017–18.

TABLE 2: NEW, ACTIVE AND COMPLETED PROJECTS 2017–18

	Number
Approved new projects	167
Total active projects under management	493
Final reports completed	85

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS, MAXIMUM MATCHABLE CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF FRDC SPEND

	A	B	C
Jurisdiction	Maximum matchable contribution (\$)	Actual contribution amounts (\$)	Distribution of FRDC spend (\$)
Total	7,570,280	9,037,070	25,478,490
Commonwealth	1,233,393	1,314,989	2,770,506
New South Wales	368,745	623,409	2,538,051
Northern Territory	164,283	195,767	802,617
Queensland	561,320	805,000	3,228,248
South Australia	1,144,323	1,209,200	4,017,050
Tasmania	2,367,828	2,904,469	5,553,177
Victoria	224,973	231,646	2,380,082
Western Australia	1,505,415	1,752,594	4,188,759
Farmed prawns ¹	213,433	151,738	406,152

1. Australian farmed prawns are included in the jurisdictional totals above.

TABLE 4: FINANCIAL INDICATORS OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION (RD&E) INVESTMENT 2017–18

Expenditure	\$m
Total expenditure	31.39
Total of RD&E projects	26.00
RD&E Program 1 (Environment)	7.94
RD&E Program 2 (Industry)	11.24
RD&E Program 3 (Communities)	1.74
RD&E Program 4 (People)	2.30
RD&E Program 5 (Adoption)	2.78
Management and accountability	5.39

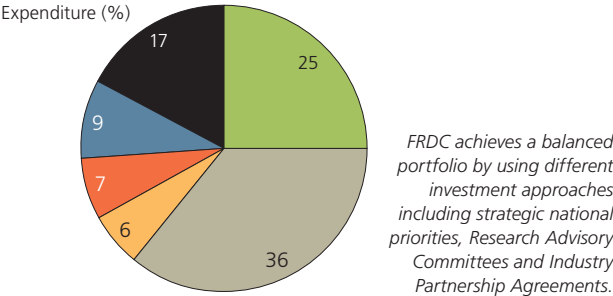


TABLE 5: INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (IPA) AND RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEES (RAC) INVESTMENT BY PROGRAM 2017–18

Program	IPA investment	RAC investment
	\$	\$
Total	7,496,645	5,339,108
Environment	1,385,938	1,861,029
Industry	4,879,828	2,473,212
Communities	321,097	395,621
People	305,548	286,264
Adoption	604,233	322,980

