

FRDC Project No 2014/404

FINAL REPORT

Planning, developing and coordinating Indigenous input to the Research, Development and Extension for Australia's fishing community - Indigenous RD&E Subprogram management. 2014 - 2017



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September 2017

Warning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Please be aware that this report may contain the names or images of deceased people. C-AID Consultants strives to treat Indigenous culture and beliefs with respect. We acknowledge that to some communities it can be distressing and offensive to show images of people who are deceased.



FRDC
FISHERIES RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



**FRDC
INDIGENOUS
REFERENCE GROUP
ON FISHERIES**

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Planning, developing and coordinating Indigenous input to the Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) for Australia's fishing community - Indigenous RD&E Subprogram (IRDES) management. 2017

FRDC Project 2014/404

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In submitting this report, the researcher has agreed to FRDC publishing this material in its edited form.

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Purpose and Scope of the FRDC Indigenous Reference Group (IRG)

The scope of the IRG is to ensure that fishing and seafood industry focused RD&E assists in delivering improved economic, environmental and social benefits to Australia's Indigenous people.

The IRG is expertise based, advisory in nature, and makes recommendations to FRDC on strategic issues relevant to Indigenous RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The traditional custodians of the lands and waters where this work was undertaken are acknowledged.

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The commitment of FRDC in supporting this project has been endorsed by the broad and general support for this program and what it has achieved in such a short time. The assistance provided by FRDC Board and staff was greatly appreciated, particularly the input and support provided by Jo Ruscoe and Patrick Hone.

Particular acknowledgment must be made of the tireless commitment of the current members of the IRG; that is Bryan Denny, Chels Marshall, Denise Lovett, Dennis Ah-Kee, Frank Parriman, Klynton Wanganeen, Matt Osborne, Michael Gilby, Stan Lui, Stephan Schnierer and Terry Yumbulul. The work of past members is also acknowledged - Bo Carne, Jason Wilson, Kevin Giles, Lorelee Wright and Petris Torres.

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KEY TERMS

Key Terms	Description
Indigenous	Unless otherwise stated this term is used to collectively refer to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
Forum 1	First National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forum, Cairns 2011
Forum 2	Second National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forum, Cairns 2012
Forum 3	Third National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forum, Cairns 2016
11 Principles	The Eleven Key RD&E Principles for the Indigenous Fisheries Sector (developed at the Forum 1)
Principles Document	Context and Outputs document building on the 11 Principles developed by the IRG and endorsed by the Forum 2
RD&E Priorities document	Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Priorities for Fishing and Aquaculture which built on the Principles Document, which identified 5 RD&E priority areas and endorsed by the Forum 2
Two-way understanding	Includes an understanding by non-indigenous fisheries stakeholders of Indigenous fisheries issues as well as an understanding by Indigenous fisheries of non-indigenous fisheries issues.

ACRONYMS

Acronym	Description
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
CFA	Commonwealth Fisheries Association
CI	Co-Investigator
CLG	Common Language Group
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DAWR	Department of Agriculture and Water Resource
Dept Ag	Dept of Agriculture
DPIF	Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries - NT
EDJTR	Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
EO	Executive Officer
EOI	Expression Of Interest
FARDE - SGC	Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E - Strategy Governance Committee
FRAB	Fisheries Research Advisory Board
FRDC	Fisheries Research And Development Corporation
HDR	Human Dimension Research Subprogram
IFCoE	Indigenous Fisheries Centre of Excellence
IIRG	Interim Indigenous RD&E Reference Group
IRDES	Indigenous RD&E Subprogram
IRG	Indigenous Reference Group
IRG	Indigenous Reference Group
MAC	Management Advisory Committee
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NAC	National Aquaculture Council
NAISMA	North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance
NFARDES	National Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E Strategy
NLC	Northern Land Council
NSILP	National Seafood Industry Leadership Program
NSWMEMA	NSW Marine Estate Management Authority
NSWMFAC	NSW Ministerial Fishing Advisory Committee
PI	Principal Investigator
PIMC	Primary Industries Ministerial Council
R&D	Research and Development
RAC	Research Advisory Committee (FRDC)
RD&E	Research Development and Extension
RPN	Research Providers Network
RTI	Rural Training Initiatives
SCU	Southern Cross University
SSRCP	Social Sciences Research Coordination Program
TFK	Traditional Fishing Knowledge
TFM	Traditional Fisheries Management
TMPK	Traditional Management Practices and Knowledge
ToR	Terms of Reference
TORP	Traditional Owner Recognition Permit
TSRA	Torres Strait Regional Authority
TSSAC	Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee
UNFAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. Rome
UTAS	University of Tasmania

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project No. 2014/404	Planning, developing and coordinating Indigenous input to the Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) for Australia's fishing community - Indigenous RD&E Subprogram (IRDES) management. Final Report FRDC
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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI):	Chris Calogeras
CO-INVESTIGATORS (CI):	Bryan Denny Chels Marshall Denise Lovett Dennis Ah-Kee Frank Parriman Klynton Wanganeen Matt Osborne Michael Gilby Stan Lui Stephan Schnierer Terry Yumbulul.

1.1. Summary

This report outlines the role that the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) has had in providing high level and strategic advice to the FRDC on its Indigenous Research Development and Extension (RD&E) investment and also the IRG's role in managing the FRDC Indigenous Subprogram.

The IRG has made significant progress in broadening stakeholders' understanding of the Indigenous sector and its place in the broader fishing and seafood industry. The IRG continues to receive positive feedback and strong support from most sectors and has allowed greater engagement and input from an Indigenous perspective with the Australian fishing and seafood industry. This project has been exceptionally successful and the previously identified gap in articulating priorities for the Indigenous sector and as a means for formal engagement at a national level has started to be addressed in a very short period.

Thanks to the work of the IRG there has been increased investment in RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry that acknowledges and engages with Indigenous Australians. Ten projects are currently underway, and additional projects are anticipated to be in place in late 2017/early 2018 to address areas of Capacity Building and Data Collection. In addition, via the involvement of the IRG, the views of the Indigenous sector are now being incorporated in the many forums that consider RD&E, policy and fishing and seafood governance.

1.2. Background

Indigenous Australians have been involved in fishing, and using seafood for a range of purposes, for many thousands of years. The Indigenous fishing sector is acknowledged as one of the three major sectors, along with commercial and recreational, but due to a range

of factors there had been, in effect, a market failure in respect to RD&E for this primary sector of the broader Industry.

Engagement with the Indigenous fisheries sector in the development of Fisheries and Aquaculture RD&E has a history that stretches back to the late 1990s, when FRDC sought advice from the then Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). This arrangement came to an end when ATSIC was abolished in 2005 and for almost five years there was no formal Indigenous advisory structure in place.

To help address this situation, in 2010 FRDC established the IRG, with the group's overarching goal being to provide advice to improve FRDC's RD&E investment in fishing and aquaculture priorities for Indigenous people. Further, in 2014 the FRDC put in place an Indigenous Subprogram which the IRG oversees on behalf of the FRDC.

The scope of the IRG is to ensure that fishing and seafood industry focused RD&E assists in delivering improved economic, environmental and social benefits to Australia's Indigenous people. The IRG is expertise based, advisory in nature, and makes recommendations to FRDC on strategic issues relevant to Indigenous RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry. Importantly, members of the IRG strongly acknowledge that they do not speak on behalf of all Indigenous people and communities, but with the endorsement of the Indigenous participants at three National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forums they feel they can provide high level strategic input and advice based on the 11 key RD&E Principles developed via the forum process.

1.3. Objectives

This project oversees the operation of the IRG and supports the Indigenous Subprogram by addressing the five key areas below:

- Working with Indigenous fishers and other stakeholders, to facilitate identification of RD&E priorities annually, and developing projects to address those priorities.
- Assisting FRDC with management of a portfolio of projects with significant benefit to, or impact on, the Indigenous fishing sector.
- Facilitating the dissemination of R&D outputs
- Managing FRDC's Indigenous development scholarships
- Encouraging coordination and co-investment in RD&E which benefits the Indigenous fishing community.

It must be noted that these project objectives are in place to support the IRG in achieving the Five RD&E Priorities for Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture that deliver on the 11 Principles developed through the three national forums.

1.4. Methodology

To achieve each of the project objectives required a combination of actions from the IRG as a whole, as well as smaller sub groups or individual members acting on behalf of the IRG.

The IRG meets regularly to assess potential and current RD&E projects developed through the FRDC process, and provides high level advice as to the suitability of each project in

respect to improving outcomes for the Industry in general, but specifically for Indigenous Australians.

In addition, based on the 11 Principle and RD&E findings to date, members of the IRG develop high level strategic papers and provide input to a range of draft policies and reports.

Engagement with other stakeholders has been a key component of the project to date and the diversity and number of guests who attended IRG meetings was significant, with around 50 individuals meeting with the IRG, including; Traditional Owners, industry groups, researchers, agency staff and Federal politicians. Two-way communication and extension is considered a key project outcome.

In addition to the formal meetings of the IRG, members provided input at over 100 meetings with a range of organisations. Importantly, these included large whole of industry or peak stakeholder events which involved contact with 1,000s of industry participants, such as at Seafood Directions, FRDC Representative Organisations Meetings/Board Meetings/Annual Planning Workshops and major involvement in the 3rd National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forum.

1.5. Results

Still being in its development phase, the Subprogram faced a number of challenges in delivering on its scope, undertaking its identified tasks, and achieving the project objectives.

There has however been some remarkable progress made since the inception of the IRG. The market failure identified for this sector is still an issue as most agencies, researchers and other stakeholders still have limited capacity to interact and engage with the Indigenous sectors, and therefore reap the opportunities and benefits that could be achieved through this program.

In addition, the pool of Indigenous people who have the expertise and/or wish to be involved in such a process is growing, but is still inadequate to address the identified needs. This has been highlighted as a key focal area of the IRG for the future, including support for a formalised capacity building program that improves understanding and knowledge of research, management, governance, and formal agency processes.

Although still a work in progress, over the last six years there has been significant progress in improving and broadening stakeholders' understanding of the Indigenous sector and its place in the broader fishing and seafood industry. Key outcomes have been:

- The successful holding of seven IRG meetings across Australia, including regional areas to build connectivity
- Specific national Indigenous RD&E priorities developed for the FRDC Annual Competitive Round Call - 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17
- Development of projects to address the Five key RD&E priority areas via the specific areas identified through the annual Competitive Round Call, with the IRG now managing around 10 projects
- Formal recommendations to FRDC on over 60 project proposals

- The number of Indigenous focussed projects having increased from around 0 to 2 per year, prior to the formation of the IRG, to around 11 - 12 per year since the IRG came into being
- The commitment of over \$2,000,000 of cash and in-kind contribution towards Indigenous focused projects, giving a return on investment of greater than 1:1 for every FRDC dollar committed
- The facilitation of the 3rd National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forum
- Increased engagement with stakeholders, agencies and service providers with the key aim being to expand links, to share information and improve two-way understanding and capacity
- IRG attendance at large (around 100) and diverse whole of industry forums, stakeholder meetings and invitations to other stakeholders to attend IRG meetings to build shared knowledge and understandings.

1.6. Implications for Stakeholders

The IRG is now seen as a go to for information and engagement in respect to Indigenous participation in the broader fishing and seafood industry. This is a positive (recognition of role and expertise), but also a negative in that often stakeholders look no further, and this needs to be addressed as part of the next iteration of the Indigenous Subprogram and the IRG's role.

1.7. Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges and opportunities still exist to:

- Increase the pool of Indigenous people who have the expertise and/or wish to be involved in the RD&E and associated policy process, and to build two-way capacity by enhancing non-Indigenous stakeholders' knowledge and capability
- Improve knowledge and data that is culturally appropriate for the Indigenous fishing sector but is still adequate to address the needs of Indigenous Australians, researchers and managers
- Enhance development of Indigenous focussed projects at a jurisdictional level through improved connectivity between the IRG and Research Advisory Committees (RAC)
- Manage expectations that the IRG is a one stop shop for all Indigenous issues related to the fishing and seafood industry by developing processes to expand networks and engagement.

1.8. Recommendations

The primary recommendation is to continue the Indigenous Subprogram and utilise the expertise of the IRG to oversee its operation.

1.9. Keywords

Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Indigenous, Indigenous Reference Group, fishing and seafood, RD&E, engagement, two-way understanding, capacity, primacy, traditional fishing, customary, cultural, research.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Overview

Engagement of the Indigenous fisheries sector in the development of Fisheries and Aquaculture RD&E has a history that stretches back to the late 1990s, when FRDC sought advice from the then Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). This arrangement came to an end when ATSIC was abolished in 2005. For almost five years there was no formal Indigenous advisory structure in place.

To help address this situation, FRDC established an Interim Indigenous RD&E Reference Group (IIRG) in early 2010, to provide advice on a range of matters dealing with engagement with Indigenous Australians on aspects of fishing and seafood focussed RD&E. The group's overarching goal was to provide advice to improve FRDC's RD&E investment in fishing and aquaculture priorities for Indigenous people.

The IIRG developed into the FRDC Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) and a number of key developments have taken place. See a timeline of key events at Table 1.

Table 1: Timeline of Key Events

Date	Event	Details
2010	IIRG	IIRG appointed
	NFARDES	Development and endorsement of the first National Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E Strategy (NFARDES). Key outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified need for improved representation and engagement with Indigenous stakeholders Identified need for vehicle such as IIRG
	IFCoE	FRDC project 2009/323, 'To scope the potential for the development of an Indigenous Fisheries Centre of Excellence (IFCoE)'. Key output: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended National Indigenous Fisheries forum
	FRDC project 2010/401	FRDC project 2010/401; 'Shaping advice for Indigenous fishing and aquaculture RD&E within the Strategy' to support and resource a National Indigenous Fisheries forum
2011	Forum 1	First National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forum held in Cairns 2011 (Forum 1). Key outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eleven Key RD&E Principles (11 Principles) for Indigenous - focused RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry Nomination of 6 IRG members (see Attachment 1 for membership)
	IRG Phase 1	FRDC project 2010/405, 'Facilitation of the FRDC IRG to progress RD&E outcomes'. An 18 month project to progress the IRG charter. The Dept of Agriculture (Dept Ag), contributed \$60,000 to support the IRG, with \$30,000 of this to support a 2 nd broad stakeholder National Indigenous RD&E Fisheries forum
2012	IRG Phase 2	FRDC project (2012/405) 'Facilitation of the FRDC Indigenous Research Coordination Program to progress RD&E outcomes (Phase-2)'. This was a three year project to resource the IRG, including a 2 nd National Indigenous RD&E Fisheries Forum
	Forum 2	Second National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forum held in Cairns

Date	Event	Details
		November 2012, (Forum 2). Key outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Context and Outputs document building on the 11 Principles' endorsed by the Forum 2 (Principles document) • 'RD&E Priorities for Fishing and Aquaculture' and actions to achieve priorities (RD&E Priorities document) • Nomination of 8 IRG members and 2 Associate Members (see Attachment 1 for membership)
2014	FRDC Indigenous SubProgram	FRDC put in place an Indigenous Subprogram and endorsed the IRG to manage it. This was supported through a three year FRDC project (2014/404) 'Planning, developing and coordinating Indigenous input to the Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) for Australia's fishing community – Indigenous RD&E Subprogram (IRDES) management
2016	Forum 3	Third FRDC National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Stakeholders Forum held in Cairns March 2016 (Forum 3). Key outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued endorsement and support for the work and direction that the IRG has undertaken to date • Importance of the current research projects to deliver concrete outputs for Indigenous fishers and Indigenous communities.

2.2. National Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E Strategy

In April 2010, the National Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E Strategy (NFARDES) was endorsed by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC).

Under the strategy the National Priorities Forum (NPF) was established, a high-level stakeholder partnership to focus national RD&E strategy and industry priority issues. This forum had an Indigenous position and one of the first actions for the forum was to 'Develop a strategy for improved representation and engagement with all sectors, and in particular Indigenous stakeholders'. The NFARDES identified challenges confronting RD&E in relation to Indigenous fisheries, i.e.:

'Indigenous customary fishing is geographically and culturally diverse, presenting challenges to coordination of planning for RD&E investments.' and

'the lack of current comprehensive information about Indigenous fishing communities, especially in northern Australia, and the relatively limited engagement on these issues with Indigenous communities. Better engagement will bring greater trust and benefits for this sector.'

At the inaugural NPF meeting it was agreed to utilise the IIRG to provide advice and expertise in developing better engagement processes, and to improve extension of RD&E outcomes and outputs to Indigenous Australians.

2.3. National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forums

The IRG, with the support of the FRDC and the Federal Department responsible for Fisheries, provided support for three National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forums.

Forum 1, held in 2011, brought together 35 people with expertise in the field of RD&E and Indigenous fisheries. The forum provided a number of outputs, including nomination and support for a small group of six Indigenous people to form a reference group (the IRG) to advise both the FRDC and the NPF on Indigenous RD&E. In addition, participants drafted Eleven Key RD&E Principles (11 Principles) for Indigenous RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry (Table 2); and gave the IRG a charter to shape those principles into RD&E priorities. The IRG was given a mandate by the participants to build on the outcomes of Forum 1, and to seek financial resourcing, and executive support.

It was noted that these tasks could not be achieved without logistical, financial and human resource support for the group.

The Forum report can be found at <http://frdc.com.au/research/final-reports/Pages/2010-401-DLD.aspx>¹.

Table 2: Eleven Key RD&E Principles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Identified at Forum 1

Research Development & Extension that	
1.	Seeks to enhance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recognition
2.	Resolves issues around access
3.	Improves governance and provide pathways to better representation and management models
4.	Provides resourcing options in a user friendly and culturally appropriate manner
5.	Leads to improved capacity that empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
6.	Leads to Agencies developing capacity to recognise and utilise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander expertise, processes and knowledge
7.	Leads to recognition of customary rights and knowledge, including processes to incorporate Traditional Fishing Knowledge (TFK) and Traditional Fisheries Management (TFM)
8.	Improves knowledge and awareness of impacts on the environment and traditional harvest
9.	Provides management arrangements that lead to improved access, protection and incorporation of Traditional Fishing Knowledge and Traditional Fisheries Management input to processes
10.	Leads to an increased value for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (economic, social, cultural, trade, health, environmental)
11.	Leads to benefit sharing

The 2nd National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forum (Forum 2) was held in 2012, with around 45 participants made up of members of the IRG, along with a wider group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, to discuss issues around Indigenous involvement in fishing and seafood based RD&E.

¹ Final Report - 2010/401 - Shaping Advice for Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E within the National Strategy Including Outcomes from the National Forum – 30-31 March 2011, Cairns.

At Forum 2, two key draft papers produced by the IRG were developed for participants' consideration:

- 'Eleven Key RD&E Principles, Context and RD&E Outputs' (Principles document)
- 'RD&E Priorities for Fishing and Aquaculture' and RD&E actions to achieve priorities (RD&E Priorities document). See Table 3 for details.

At Forum 2 participants were provided with an overview of the activities of the IRG to date and given the opportunity to assess key outputs developed by the IRG (the Principles and RD&E Priorities documents), and provide feedback on them. They also nominated new members for vacated IRG positions, and identified key tasks for the IRG over the following three years. In addition, it gave the IRG some direction relating to its role:

- Seek greater engagement at a community level
- Ensure more projects had indigenous participation
- Turn the words into actions
- Bring Forum 2 participants back together in one or two years' time.

A copy of the Forum report can be found at <http://frdc.com.au/research/final-reports/Pages/2010-405-DLD.aspx>².

Table 3: Five RD&E Priorities for Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture to deliver on the Principles

Strategic Priorities	RD&E Actions To Achieve Priorities
<p>Primacy for Indigenous People <i>Indigenous people have certain recognised rights associated with and based on the prior and continuing occupation of country and water and activities (e.g. fishing, gathering) associated with the use and management of these.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the means to ensure Australian indigenous fishing cultural assets and associated rights are met, or addressed, within the broader understanding of fishing rights in Australia. • Process to determine an indigenous catch and allocation model, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ examples of relevant allocation models ○ value of the allocation to various sectors ○ current status and case studies
<p>Acknowledgement of Indigenous Cultural Practices <i>Indigenous people have the right to maintain and develop cultural practices to address spiritual, cultural, social and economic needs associated with aquatic resources and landscapes.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify models to incorporate TFK/TFM into aquatic resource management processes • Examine what fishing and non-fishing practices impact on indigenous cultural fishing practices, including identifying key iconic species • Explore the means to ensure that Australian Indigenous cultural assets and associated fishing rights are being addressed in the broader understanding of fishing rights in

² Final Report - 2010-405 - Facilitation of the FRDC Indigenous Reference Group to Progress RD&E Outcomes.

Strategic Priorities	RD&E Actions To Achieve Priorities
	<p>Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the real understanding of the nonindigenous groups (other fisheries sectors and conservation NGO's) about indigenous cultural fishing and develop processes/materials to enhance that understanding.
<p>Self-determination of indigenous rights to use and manage cultural assets and resources <i>Indigenous people have the right to determine courses of action in relation to use and management of aquatic biological resources.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing barriers to full and effective indigenous involvement in mainstream fisheries decision making processes and forums Identifying the cost benefit of effective indigenous consultation and extension Improving the involvement of indigenous people in all levels of aquatic biological resource management.
<p>Economic development opportunities arising from indigenous peoples' cultural assets and associated rights. <i>Indigenous people have the right to engage in economic activity based on the use of traditional aquatic biological resources and/or the right to share in the benefits derived from the exploitation of aquatic biological resources</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and start new commercial initiatives that maintain ongoing indigenous interests and concerns in the fishing and seafood industry Develop management measures that improves indigenous access to aquatic biological resources for commercial purposes Explore innovative benefit sharing models from fisheries resource use and access (including employment) Examine new models to ascertain the total 'value' of indigenous participation in fishing Explore opportunities for branding (labelling) of indigenous caught seafood and fisheries product assessed
<p>Capacity building opportunities for indigenous people are enhanced <i>Indigenous people have the right to access capacity building activities to further their aspirations in the use and management of aquatic biological resources</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building capacity of mainstream sectors to effectively engage with indigenous fishing sector and communities Building general understanding of fishing industry structures and processes Improving capacity of (and opportunities for) indigenous people to engage in research, fisheries management, compliance and other commercial activity Research outputs and information are available in appropriate formats and language (extension and adoption)

The 3rd National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forum (Forum 3) was held in 2016, with around 55 participants, made up of members of the IRG, along with a wider group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The IRG worked with IMCRA and RTI to host Forum 3.

Forum 3 was an opportunity to test the appropriateness and relevance of the RD&E being commissioned by the IRG with many of the participants who supported its existence at Forum 1 and 2, and also via a cohort of new participants without history with the IRG.

Participants provided continued endorsement and support for the work and direction that the IRG had undertaken to date, and noted the importance of the then current research projects to deliver concrete outputs for Indigenous fishers and Indigenous communities.

The Forum report can be found at http://frdc.com.au/research/Final_reports/2014-404.20-DLD.pdf³.

The Forums provided the IRG guidance and endorsement for the direction that the group and the FRDC were heading in. It is uncertain whether any further similar style forum is required in the near future and that decision will be made after consultation with past participants and the FRDC.

2.4. R&D to Address Priorities

The IRG subprogram has overseen a number of projects that seek to address the Five RD&E Priorities for Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture to deliver on the Principles outlined in Table 3. To best achieve this with limited resources the IRG has developed annual specific priority areas to focus RD&E investment each year from the Subprogram funds. These specific priorities and supporting information are shown in Table 6. These priorities sought to:

1. Establish the Values of Aquatic Biological Resources to Australian Indigenous People
2. Identify Indigenous Business Development Opportunities and Impediments in the Fishing and Seafood Industry
3. Seek improved Data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Fisheries Resource Use to Better Inform Fisheries Agency Decision Making and Indigenous Community Planning
4. Develop an Indigenous Capacity Building Program.

These priorities, along with a number of projects that were in place before the IRG Subprogram commenced, sought to address the priority areas above. The following projects commenced during or prior to the commencement of this subprogram (Table 7):

- 2013/017 - Optimising management of tropical reef fish through the development of Indigenous scientific capability⁴
- 2013/218 - Building the Capacity and Performance of Indigenous Fisheries⁴

³ Final Report - 2014-404.20 - Indigenous fishing subprogram: Facilitation of the third FRDC National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Stakeholders Forum.

⁴ These projects were in place before the Subprogram commenced, but were developed with the guidance of the IRG

- 2014/226 - Improving the recognition and integration of traditional owner customary fishing and ecological knowledge in the management of Victoria's fisheries⁴
- 2014/233 - Improving access for Indigenous Australians to and involvement in the use and management of Australia's fisheries resources
- 2014/404.2 - Indigenous fishing subprogram: Facilitation of the third FRDC National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Stakeholders Forum
- 2014/404 - Planning, developing, coordinating Indigenous input to RD&E for Australia fishing community - Indigenous RD&E Subprogram management
- 201/-205 - Indigenous fishing subprogram: Mapping livelihood values of Indigenous customary fishing
- 2016/201 - Business opportunities and impediments for Aboriginal community development in supportive fishing industries in the Roper River to Robinson River area of the Northern Territory
- 2016/204 - 'Wave to plate' establishing a market for Tasmanian cultural fisheries
- 2016/206 - Business Nous – Indigenous business development opportunities and impediments in the fishing and seafood industry.

Projects are still in the development phase for priorities 3 and 4 above.

Since the 2014 FRDC funding round, the FRDC has invested \$2,358,723 in Indigenous focused projects and this has been matched by \$2,783,071 of in-kind or cash contributions, giving a return of better than 1:1 for each FRDC dollar committed to these Indigenous projects (Table 9).

2.5. The Scope and Role of the IRG

The scope of the IRG has been to ensure that fishing and seafood industry RD&E assists in delivering improved economic, environmental and social benefits to Indigenous Australians. The IRG is not representative but is expertise based, advisory in nature, and makes recommendations to FRDC on strategic issues relevant to Indigenous RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry.

The IRG includes Indigenous members with expertise in cultural and commercial fishing, fisheries management, fisheries policy development (international and national), fisheries research and education, NRM and Indigenous community governance and consultation. The membership of IRG has expanded from an initial membership of six in 2011, to 11 in 2017. The current members are drawn from all state and Territory fisheries jurisdictions and the Torres Strait (see Attachment 1).

Members provide their time, expertise and knowledge voluntarily, and are not remunerated or paid sitting fees. The Chair is provided a modest stipend to assist in partially offsetting the additional workload the role carries.

The IRG has proven to be an invaluable link for the FRDC and has allowed greater engagement and input from an Indigenous perspective with many aspects of the Australian fishing and seafood industry - much broader than just the RD&E process. This has involved extensive input as part of developing high level national policy, strategies, submissions and reports, and attendance and presenting at a range of forums.

As a result of this progress, but acknowledging the challenges the coordination program encountered delivering on key national RD&E priorities that focus on Indigenous needs, the FRDC Board, in December 2013, supported the establishment of an Indigenous RD&E Subprogram (IRDES) and requested that the IRG manage the Subprogram. The Subprogram commenced in 2014 with the IRG overseeing its operation.

3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Work with Indigenous fishers and other stakeholders, to facilitate identification of RD&E priorities annually, and develop projects to address those priorities.
2. Assist FRDC with management of a portfolio of projects with significant benefit to, or impact on, the Indigenous fishing sector.
3. Facilitate dissemination of R&D outputs
4. Manage FRDC's Indigenous development scholarships
5. Encourage coordination and co-investment in RD&E which benefits the Indigenous fishing community.

Readers should note that these project objectives are in place to support the IRG in achieving the Five RD&E Priorities for Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture to deliver on the Principles outlined in Table 3.

4. METHODOLOGY

To achieve each of the project objectives required a combination of actions from the IRG as a whole, as well as smaller sub groups or individual members acting on behalf of the IRG.

Group Actions - IRG

Logistical and Operation Support was provided by the Principal Investigator (PI), with guidance and support from the IRG Chair, members and the FRDC. The PI provided coordination and executive support for members and organised phone conferences and face-to-face meetings for the IRG. This included the development and circulation of meeting agendas and background papers, usually by email or via a shared drive. The PI was responsible for managing the travel and accommodation arrangements for IRG meetings, national forums and attendance at other meetings.

A summary of each meeting and the decisions taken were recorded, and circulated to all IRG members for review and input within four weeks of the meetings. Where IRG members agreed to provide background supplementary information outside of meetings, the PI was tasked with following this up. IRG meeting generated tasks were maintained and updated at future meetings.

The PI acted as a link between IRG, the FRDC and other bodies, including fisheries agencies, research networks, FRAB/RAC (Fisheries Research Advisory Board/Research Advisory Committee), other fisheries sectors, Indigenous organisations and politicians.

The PI facilitated the development of a revised IRG Terms of Reference (ToR) including meeting procedures, decision processes, methods for dealing with conflict of interest, membership succession etc (see Attachment 2).

With members, the PI developed a method for processing FRDC Expressions of Interest (EOI) and subsequent funding applications which involves provision of application summaries cross referenced to IRG determined priorities. EOI and applications were assessed against agreed criteria to provide consistent advice across applications and meetings (see later section for details).

The scope of the IRG is primarily to ensure that fishing and seafood industry focused RD&E assists in delivering improved economic, environmental and social benefits to Australia's Indigenous people. Within its resourcing the IRG seeks to achieve this by:

- Holding two face to face meetings of IRG members per year to undertake the necessary work of the group in line with its ToR
- Assisting in the facilitation of broader Indigenous forums as required
- Providing advice to ensure FRDC's RD&E investments are better aligned with Indigenous Australians' strategic needs
- Providing an environment for the discussion of strategic and policy matters relevant to Indigenous Australians' involvement in fishing and seafood related RD&E
- Identifying, or developing, research activities that will advance Indigenous Australians' involvement in the broader fishing and seafood industry
- Advising on, and assisting in, the dissemination and adoption of relevant FRDC activities
- Assisting FRDC to provide advice and protocols to applicants, to add value to their RD&E proposals to better address Indigenous needs
- Providing advice and making recommendations to FRDC with respect to high level broader research strategy priorities, and advice on relevant research proposals
- Providing assistance and input into the coordination and communication of identified key Indigenous RD&E needs to agencies and the research community, and R&D outcomes to fishers, managers and the broader community
- Building two-way capacity between the IRG and a range of stakeholders and co-investors.

Specific tasks of the IRG include:

- Determining an annual meeting schedule and work program
- Maintaining a relevant ToR for the group, including processes under which the IRG will operate (Attachment 2)
- Building communication channels within the IRG, the FRDC and stakeholders
- Providing advice and input to FRDC, including advice on funding applications, the National RD&E process, other FRDC program areas, and management of the scholarship program
- Providing advice on how best to increase efficiency/synergies in addressing agencies' and researchers' needs relating to Indigenous engagement and priorities by engaging with agencies, industry groups, research providers, FRAB/RAC, other Subprograms and Coordination programs

- Providing assistance to increase capacity of Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders to be involved in, and undertake, relevant RD&E projects that progress management arrangements and seek to incorporate Traditional Management Practices and Knowledge (TMPK)
- Building the credibility of the IRG to help synthesise national Indigenous fishing and seafood related RD&E, and to identify and encourage resourcing from other sources beyond FRDC.

Individual IRG Member Actions

On numerous occasions during the life of this project representatives from IRG were sought by various groups/organisations to provide input on Indigenous fisheries research and high level policy issues. This input involved attendance at meetings or input via email/phone or a combination of both. Usually initial contact was made with the PI who would then email IRG members seeking their interest and availability to attend meetings or provide input on behalf of the IRG.

The logistics associated with ensuring attendance was provided by the PI. Those IRG representatives attending such meetings then provide a report back to the full IRG meeting on the nature of their participation as well as the outcomes.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Being still in its development phase, the program faced a number of challenges in delivering on its scope, undertaking its identified tasks, and achieving the project objectives.

There had been some remarkable progress made since the inception of the IRG, the market failure identified for this sector is still an issue as most agencies, researchers and other stakeholders still have limited capacity to interact and engage with the Indigenous sectors, and therefore reap the opportunities and benefits that could be achieved through this program. In addition, the pool of Indigenous people who have the expertise and/or wish to be involved in such a process is growing, but is still inadequate to address the identified needs. This has been highlighted as a key focal area of the IRG for the future, including support for a formalised capacity building program that improves understanding and knowledge of research, management, governance, and formal agency processes.

Although still a work in progress, over the last 6 years there has been significant progress in improving and broadening stakeholders' understanding of the Indigenous sector and its place in the broader fishing and seafood industry.

In regard to the project objectives, the following outlines the specific program activities.

5.1. Work with Indigenous Fishers and Other Stakeholders to Facilitate Identification of RD&E Priorities Annually, and Develop Projects to Address Those Priorities.

Meeting Protocols and IRG Operational Procedures

A major component of this project is to provide logistical, operational and executive support for the IRG. The scope of work to be undertaken by the IRG is outlined in the project

objectives and methodology, and through the IRG ToR (Attachment 2). A key aim is to provide professional logistical, operational and executive support to allow the IRG to operate effectively. This is an especially important component of the project as IRG members live across all jurisdictions of Australia, have varying degrees of access to regular communication platforms and/or experience in operating in this RD&E environment.

There were seven face to face IRG meetings held in a range of venues, as well as a number of whole of IRG, or specific IRG group, teleconferences. Meeting details of date, venue, members' attendance and apologies, and guest lists are provided at Table 4.

Meetings were aligned with the FRDC calls for applications timelines, with the IRG undertaking at least two face to face meetings of members each calendar year. Two to 2½ day meetings were considered optimal to allow sufficient time for matters to be fully discussed and consensus based outcomes and recommendations developed.

The review of the FRDC funding cycle and process provided some challenges for the IRG as the group attempted to develop priorities and provide advice on EOI and applications in time for the RACs and other programs to have that advice at hand when they were considering priorities and applications. This still needs refining.

Each meeting is designed to involve all members of the IRG, plus support through the PI. A representative from FRDC is invited to each meeting and teleconference. Special guests (e.g. Industry peak bodies, agencies, local Indigenous groups) are also invited to each meeting to provide additional advice and/or expertise which may be required for a particular meeting, agenda item, or to observe the proceedings.

Each meeting had a specific agenda determined by the members in conjunction with the FRDC, and supporting agenda papers⁵ were generally prepared by the Executive Officer (EO) (see Attachment 3 for copies of agendas).

The IRG revised its Chairing practices to improve its between meeting efficiency, and moved away from the rotational Chairing protocols that it trialled during the previous support program. A member was appointed as Chair for a 12 month period and this was assessed each year. This allowed the Chair and EO to work more closely to address some of the work of the IRG out of session and provide an Indigenous focal point, rather than working through the EO.

Each item was discussed and decisions developed based on consensus - if no consensus could be achieved, dissenting views were recorded.

Each meeting's outcomes were reported in the form of a meeting summary, with specific action items identified. These summaries⁶ were shared with all IRG members and the FRDC, and noting confidentiality requirements where appropriate, or necessary, excerpts were provided to other relevant stakeholders.

⁵ Copies of Agenda papers have not been included in this report as there may be issues of confidentiality with certain briefings and project assessments

⁶ Copies of the summaries papers have not been included in this report as there may be issues of confidentiality with certain discussions and project assessments

Communication protocols for the IRG are now well established based on the PI undertaking an initial filter and identifying what information requires action and by when, and what was only for information (i.e. Action Item v Information Item). In addition, once the initial sharing of information had taken place, not all members sought to have further input to each and every step of each action.

IRG Meetings

Table 4 provides details of IRG meetings, dates, venue, member and guest attendance. As can be seen from the table the diversity and number of guests was significant, with around 50 individuals meeting with the IRG, including; Traditional Owners, industry groups, researchers, agency staff and Federal politicians. Prior to the IRG it is unlikely that many of these groups would have had the opportunity to have discussions, in an Indigenous forum, on key RD&E and policy areas. This aspect of the program is incredibly important as it provides two-way learning opportunities and builds linkages and relationships.

As well as the formal face to face meetings and teleconferences the members of the IRG maintained extensive contact via email and regular telephone conversations, either as individual or group conference calls. This high level of contact took place as more requests for input and involvement came about, due to the acknowledged IRG role in partially filling the gap that was (and still is) in place in respect to Indigenous input into a range of activities

Table 4: Details of IRG Meetings

Meeting	Dates	Venue	Attendance	Guests
IRG11	1-3/10/14	Canberra ACT	Stan Lui (Chair) Bryan Denny Chris Calogeras Dennis Ah Kee Jo Ruscoe Klynton Wanganeen Matt Osborne Stephan Schnierer Apologies: Chels Marshall Denise Lovett Mike Gilby Petris Torres Terry Yumbulul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fiona Hill - Advisor Senator Colbeck - Joel Fitzgibbon - Shadow Minister for Agriculture - Patrick Hone -FRDC - Senator Colbeck - Parliamentary Secretary Fisheries and Aquaculture - Susan Wishart - Dep Agriculture - Warren Snowdon - Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Affairs and Northern Australia.
IRG12	4 – 5/8/15	Adelaide SA	Attendees: Stan Lui (Chair) Bryan Denny Chris Calogeras Dennis Ah Kee Jo Ruscoe Klynton Wanganeen Matt Osborne Mike Gilby Stephan Schnierer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doug Milera -Tauondi Aboriginal College - Gavin Beggs - SARDI - Hayley Egan - SCU - Paul Pak Poy - Dep Agriculture - Rod Kennet - AIATSI - Sean Sloan - PIRSA

Meeting	Dates	Venue	Attendance	Guests
			Apologies: Chels Marshall Denise Lovett Terry Yumbulul	
IRG13	19 – 20/10/15	Hobart, Tasmania	Attendees: Stan Lui (Chair) Bryan Denny Chels Marshall Chris Calogeras Dennis Ah Kee Jo Ruscoe Klynton Wanganeen Matt Osborne Mike Gilby Stephan Schnierer Apologies: Denise Lovett Terry Yumbulul	– Emily Ogier – SSERCP – Fiona Ewing – TASSAL. – Fiona Hamilton - TO – Kieran MacDonnell - Dep Agriculture – Pheroze Jungalwalla – NAC – Rob Anders - TO – Rob Gott - DPIPWE – Sarah Jennings – SSERCP – Stewart Frusher – UTAS
IRG14	13/3/16	Cairns, Qld	Attendees: Stan Lui (Chair) Bryan Denny Chels Marshall Chris Calogeras. Dennis Ah Kee Frank Parriman Jo Ruscoe Klynton Wanganeen Matt Osborne Mike Gilby Stephan Schnierer Terry Yumbulul Apologies: Denise Lovett	– Bo Carne - NT DPIF – Haley Egan – Consultant
IRG15	4 – 5/10/16	Fremantle WA.	Attendees: Stan Lui (Chair) Bryan Denny Chels Marshal Chris Calogeras. Dennis Ah Kee Frank Parriman Jo Ruscoe Matt Osborne Mike Gilby Apologies: Denise Lovett	– Aaron Irving - PPA and NAC – Andrew Rowland - Recfish West – Ben Fraser - WA Fisheries – Cameron - WA Rep Group Project. – Darren Foster - WA Fisheries – Jacynta Foy - WA Rep Group Project – Jill Briggs - RTI – John Harrison - WAFIC – Kaine Jakaitis - PIRSA – Mike McMullan - WA Fisheries – Tina Thorne - ACWA

Meeting	Dates	Venue	Attendance	Guests
			Klynton Wanganeen Stephan Schnierer Terry Yumbulul.	
IRG16	7-8/3/17	Brisbane Qld	Attendees: Stan Lui (Chair) Bryan Denny Chels Marshal Chris Calogeras Dennis Ah Kee Jo Ruscoe Matt Osborne Mike Gilby Stephan Schnierer Apologies: Denise Lovett. Frank Parriman Klynton Wanganeen Terry Yumbulul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kimberley Foster - Qld DAF - Scott Spencer - Qld DAF - Shane Holland - PIRSA
IRG17	13-15/6/17	Darwin, NT	Attendees: Stan Lui (Chair) Bryan Denny Chels Marshal Chris Calogeras. Dennis Ah Kee Josh Fielding Klynton Wanganeen Matt Osborne Mike Gilby Stephan Schnierer Terry Yumbulul. Apologies: Denise Lovett Frank Parriman Jo Ruscoe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dan Richards – Humpty Doo Barramundi - David Ciaravolo – AFANT - Ian Curnow – DPIR - Katherine Winchester – NTSC - Lowri Pryce – OceanWatch - Robert Carne – DPIR - Shane Holland - PIRSA - Steve Bolton – AFMA - Viki Obrien - AFMA - FRDC Board members and staff

Meetings Attended and Input Provided by the IRG

In addition to the formal meetings of the IRG, the EO, Chair and/or IRG member(s), attended a range of meetings to provide input from an Indigenous perspective based on the work of the IRG. Attendance at these meetings, and the development of positions and papers for input was coordinated through this project and where possible, funding was externally sourced for meeting attendance. Prior to the IRG there was no real opportunity, or vehicle, to identify potential participants for meetings or provide a coordinated response to issues. Some examples are shown in Table 5Table 4.

As can be seen from Table 5 members from the IRG attended meetings or contributed to the development of reports or submissions and provided advice to over 80 organisations or

groups. Prior to the IRG it is unlikely most of these groups would have been exposed to formalised RD&E from an Indigenous perspective. In addition, many members of the IRG had not been exposed to the broader industry and the variety of stakeholders. The opportunity for 2-way engagement is at the heart of the IRG philosophy.

Table 5: Summary of Attendance at Meetings or Examples of Various Reports, Processes or Reviews IRG Members Had Input To

Meeting/Organisation	IRG Input
Aarli Mayi	Provided advice on IRG focused Research and Development (R&D) as part of aquaculture proposal for access in WA Attendance at Forum
ABARES	Input and attendance at meetings for the national recreational fishing survey project
ACIAR	Contact with new CEO
ACWA	Meeting, brief at IRG and follow ups
AFANT	Meeting, brief at IRG and follow ups
Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)	Meeting, contact, discussions, attendance at IRG meeting. Focus on improving engagement with Indigenous Australians and addressing requirements under new Federal legislation re fishery committee
AFMF	Input to briefings and meeting with Chair
AgNorth CRC	Input to development of application
AIATSIS	Ongoing discussions relating to co investment opportunities. Attendance at Forum
Animal Health Subprogram	Contact, discussions and input relating to Indigenous matters
ASFB	Support for visiting expert and input to Australian Society for Limnology Indigenous engagement program
Assistant Minister for Fisheries and Advisors	One face to face meeting and correspondence. Provided information including IRG Priority areas for Indigenous focussed RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry.
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)	Contact and discussions re collaborative opportunities
Common Language Group (CLG)	Attendance at meetings and input to documents
Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA)	Contact and discussions
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Meeting, contact and discussions re research opportunities
DAWR	Meetings and conversations with range of staff. Input to revised legislation Biosecurity, AQUAPLAN, EADRA and EAAD; Indigenous program. Attendance of a number of staff at IRG meetings and Forum
DPIPWE	Attendance at IRG meeting and follow up actions
Fisheries WA	Contacts and linkages with IRG, attendance at IRG meeting and Forum
FRDC – Fish Magazine	Input to stories
FRDC Annual Planning	Attendance and input at a number of meetings

Meeting/Organisation	IRG Input
Workshops	
FRDC Board	Presentation at Board meetings Coordinating Indigenous meetings attendance and input at regional meetings Meeting with Board members - formal and informal
FRDC Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E - Strategy Governance Committee (FARDE-SGC)	Attendance and input at a number of meetings
FRDC FRAB/RAC	Attendance at some RAC/FRAB by members, input to individual FRAB/RAC EOI, priorities and with FRAB/RAC EO and FRDC Staff
FRDC Representative Organisations	Attendance and input at a number of meetings
FRDC SAFS	Input to development
FRDC Staff	Meeting, contact, discussions, submissions and input
Gimuy Fish Festival	Attendance at festivals
Greens Party	Provided details of priority areas for Indigenous RD&E in fisheries prior to election
Human Dimension Research Program (HDR)/Social Science Research Coordination Program (SSRCP)	Contact, discussions, input to HDB and collaboration between Subprogram. Attendance at meetings of HDB (national technical workshop, RD&E Planning workshop) and at IRG meeting and Forum
Human Dimension Research Subprogram	Attendance at IRG Forum, HDR workshops and ongoing phone and email contacts
Humpty Doo Barramundi	Site visits
IMAS	Contact and discussions on RD&E collaboration opportunities. Attendance at IRG meetings and Forum
James Cook University (JCU)	Contact and discussions on RD&E collaboration opportunities
Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)	Contact and discussions on opportunities to link Indigenous fisheries with the MSC process
Minister for Indigenous Health	Provided information including IRG Priority areas for Indigenous focussed RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry.
National Aquaculture Council (NAC)	Contact and discussions on RD&E opportunities. Attendance at IRG meeting.
National Bycatch Reporting System FRDC Project	Indigenous input to Steering Committee
National Marine Science Plan	Input to document
National Native Title conference 2016	Attendance and oversee session
National Seafood Industry Leadership Program (NSILP)	Attendance and presentations as part of panels 2015, 2016 and 2017
NESP Marine Biodiversity Hub	Provide Indigenous input
NLC	Attendance at IRG meeting and Forum
North Australian	Meeting, contact and discussions

Meeting/Organisation	IRG Input
Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)	
NSW AFAC	Attendance by member, input at several meetings and in several documents leading to support from the committee for indigenous projects particular in NSW.
NSW DPIE	Attendance at Forum
NSW FRAB/RAC	Attendance by member, and input at a number of meetings which have resulted in support for; specific indigenous fisheries research projects FRDC project No.'s 2010/304, and 2012/216; as well as the inclusion of indigenous perspectives in more mainstream projects for example see Barclay FRDC project No.'s 2014/301 and 2015/302
NSW Marine Estate Management Authority's Threat and Risk Assessment process.	IRG member attended providing input from current FRDC research project no. 214/233
NSW Ministerial Fishing Advisory Committee	IRG member on committee, has provided a presentation on the 11 principles document as well as ongoing updates about annual indigenous research priorities.
NT DPIF	Attendance at IRG meeting and Forum
NT FRAB/RAC	Attendance by member, and input at a number of meetings
NTSC	Attendance at IRG meeting
OceanWatch	Meeting, contact and discussions. Attendance at IRG meeting. National NRM
Oysters Australis	Discussion relating to potential indigenous focused project – technical advice
Parliamentary Secretary - Fisheries	Number of meetings, contact and discussions with PS and advisors
Pilbara Development Commission	Discussion relating to potential Indigenous focused project
PIRSA	Attendance at IRG meeting and ongoing engagement with IRG
PM&C	Discussion, meeting and input to potential indigenous focused activities within broader Government
PPA	Attendance at IRG meeting and contact regarding engagement with Indigenous pearl farmers
Productivity Commission into the Regulation of Australian Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors.	Meetings, emails, submissions on Inquiry. Attendance by Commissioners at IRG Forums, IRG member attendance at public hearings in Brisbane.
PZJA	Provide update on work or IRG
Qld DAF	Attendance at IRG meeting, Gimuy Festival and Forum. Advice on engagement with Indigenous participants in Qld
Recfish Research SubProgram	Contact and discussions regarding collaboration between Subprogram
Recfish West	Attendance at IRG meeting and contact regarding opportunities to collaborate and share information
RedSpear Consulting	Attendance at Forum and follow up on WA information
Research Providers Network (RPN)	Attendance and input at a number of meetings

Meeting/Organisation	IRG Input
Ridge Partners	Attendance at number of IRG meetings and forums. Ongoing contact regarding Indigenous opportunities in broader industry
Rob Anders - TO Fiona Hamilton - TO	Attendance at IRG meeting
RTI	Attendance at number of IRG meetings and forums.
Rural R&D for Profit Programme	Input and advice to the development of an indigenous community based Mud Crab fishery
SARDI	Attendance at IRG meeting and ongoing engagement with IRG – including for World Congress
Seafood Direction 2015	Attendance and presentation
Seafood Direction 2017	Attendance and arranged meetings with Industry groups including SIA and NAC
Seafood NZ	Contact with the CEO to arrange attendance at NZ conference and meet with Maori representatives
Shadow federal members	Meeting, contact and discussions with Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Affairs and Northern Australia. Provided information including IRG Priority areas for Indigenous focussed RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry.
SIA/NSIA	Conversations regarding Indigenous input to association and key areas. Formalise meeting arrangements with SIA and IRG reps
Stock Status Reports 2016 Working Group	Input from an Indigenous perspective
Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council	Contact, discussions and arrangements for meeting attendance
TASSAL	Contact, discussions and IRG meeting attendance by Community Engagement Officer
Tauondi Aboriginal College SA	Attend IRG meeting and share information
Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)	Meeting, contact and discussions. Attendance at Forum
Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee (TSSAC)	Contact. Discussions, meeting attendance
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. Rome	IRG member attended technical working group meeting on the development of 'Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication'. The guidelines contain several references to Indigenous Fisheries in the context of small scale fisheries.
UTAS	Attendance at Forum and ongoing conversation regarding Indigenous activities
Vic FRAB/RAC	Attendance by member, and input at a number of meetings
WA Rep Group Project.	Attendance at IRG meeting and ongoing engagement
WAFIC	Attendance at IRG meeting and ongoing contact regarding employment opportunities for Indigenous people

5.2. Assist Development of Indigenous Focused RD&E Outcomes

This was a key objective for the project and regarded as a priority for IRG members. This was addressed through a multi focussed approach based on:

- Developing a ToR that focused IRG activities on achieving outcomes whilst building capacity
- Engaging with peers and stakeholders to share and educate through two-way capacity building
- Identifying key Indigenous issues and determining broad Indigenous priority RD&E areas
- Identifying and sharing widely annual focussed Indigenous RD&E priority projects
- Value adding to projects and processes to increase Indigenous input and outcomes, particularly those that have been developed through the FRAB/RAC process
- Advising Agencies, researchers and the various RAC/FRAB of potential Indigenous research opportunities.

Developing Annual IRG Priorities

A key output to date has been the development of specific IRG priorities for the 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 open call funding round. These are provided at Table 6.

Table 6: IRG Priorities Developed for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 Funding Rounds

Priority 2014/15	
Establish the Values of Aquatic Biological Resources to Australian Indigenous People.	
Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for categorised data (cultural, catch, social, economic, health) to ascertain the values of aquatic biological resources to Indigenous people to be integrated into policy and decision making processes; e.g. management planning, allocation, risk assessment.
Planned Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries policy will incorporate outputs into future planning processes • Identification of the most appropriate means to collect and assess relevant data including collection of metrics to measure the value • Identify or develop models to ascertain the 'value' of aquatic biological resources to Indigenous people • Building of increased Indigenous and non-Indigenous capacity in line with Indigenous priorities
IRG Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$300k
Priority 2015/16	
Indigenous Business Development Opportunities and Impediments in the Fishing and Seafood Industry.	
Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to better understand the opportunities and impediments to improving Indigenous business development involvement across the fishing and seafood industry. • Wish to look across the supply chain and across sectors, including wild catch for food or display, aquaculture, transport and logistics, marketing, guiding, charter, processing etc. • Amongst other matters also consider Joint Ventures, Co-operative arrangements, low technology aquaculture, branding, 'mega development' opportunities as well as 'low hanging fruit', two-way capacity, how to guides, understanding Indigenous business objectives,

	<p>etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider using case studies.
Planned Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use outputs to feed into current discussions regarding improved employment and business opportunities for Indigenous Australians.
IRG Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$300k
Priority 2016/17 Improved Data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Fisheries Resource Use to Better Inform Fisheries Agency Decision Making and Indigenous Community Planning.	
Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a clear need in all jurisdictions for data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders catch to ensure; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ that the development of fisheries management plans and harvest strategies adequately address issues of access and allocation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders fishers. ○ that the risk assessments of fisheries management plans adequately address the impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders cultural fishing activities ○ that requirements under the <i>EPBC Act</i> to assess the environmental performance of fisheries and promote ecologically sustainable fisheries management, are met (NB it is clearly evident that ever since agencies began making submissions to the federal environment agency for accreditation of their fisheries management plans, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders catch data has been inadequate) • There is a need within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to have documented data on catch to underpin arguments for access and allocation of catch when negotiating with fisheries agencies. • While some progress has been on methodology there is a lot more required to improve on catch estimation at various jurisdiction levels. An approach is needed that has both a national and local/regional scope. Such an approach needs to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander driven but at the same time in partnership with other researchers so that data can be collected in a culturally appropriate way, but also statistically adequate.
Planned Outcome⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national and culturally appropriate approach to collecting data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fisheries resource use is developed • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property on fisheries resource use is protected • Innovative and appropriate methodologies are developed, building on past and current work in this area, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ smartphone technology trialled in TS ○ Gilby's work in Victoria ○ Schnierer's work in NSW ○ NTDPIF work • A national workshop to progress methodology • Test cases, or a national pilot study, for data collection is undertaken • Each jurisdiction financially, and in-kind, contributes to this national

⁷ The scope of this Priority has changed since it was presented at the Annual Stakeholder workshop. A working group comprising the IRG, FRDC and select researchers will fine-tune the project scope.

	<p>project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data is available for use in a range of research, policy and management purposes
IRG Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$100k. Leverage support from other sources
Priority 2016/17 Indigenous Capacity Building Program	
Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to develop the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to engage with and participate in a range of fisheries management, policy and research and development processes. The current pool of adequately skilled people is insufficient to cover the vast range of groups that require Indigenous expertise and input Non-indigenous people also need to increase their capacity to work with Indigenous Australians. There appears to be no existing program that is suitable for Indigenous participants to gain a basic understanding of fisheries management processes and governance structures, and an introduction to leadership skills. There are however, some existing programs that have elements of what is needed in terms of content, and others that focus on Indigenous capacity building. It is likely that partnerships will be needed to bring together this program and potential for elements of existing programs or materials to be incorporated, adapted or linked.
Planned Outcome⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A national, culturally appropriate capacity building program for Indigenous Australians, focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic fisheries research concepts and practices Current approaches to fisheries management and policy overview Fishery governance structures Understanding of, and capacity to participate in relevant committees and workshops, e.g. Research Advisory Groups, Ministerial, Fishery and Research Advisory groups, etc Providing an introduction to leadership and building leadership knowledge alongside other program components Primarily - build on the ground capacity for Indigenous people. Secondarily - engage with managers and researchers as part of the program to build their understanding and capacity. Develop the Program and run a trial for two years (two rounds) for 10 people per year. (Note that an EOI should provide reasonable detail of the program scope and design, including components and length of time required annually). Potential that the Program will be suitable as a lead into existing leadership programs (e.g. Recreational Fishing, National Seafood Industry Leadership Program, and/or Australian Rural Leadership program). The longer term aim is to build on the trials and possibly run the program biennially.
IRG Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$200k for development and two years' operations which covers participants travel costs

⁸ This project scope has been revised since it was put out in the open call round. No applications were considered satisfactory, so the scope was revised and a renewed call for EOI was sought for June 2017.

IRG RD&E Project Management

The IRG is overseeing the following 10 projects (see Table 7). This involves working with the PI to refine the projects' methodology, engaging with PIs prior to each IRG meeting by offering them the opportunity to brief the group face to face, or via short 1-3 page reports, and providing feedback and advice in respect to any progress or reports they submit.

The IRG members have contributed significantly to these projects either through direct involvement, formal advice via IRG meetings, or through informal engagement with the researchers involved in the projects, particularly providing cultural advice and assisting in building relationships between researchers and those involved in the projects.

In addition, this contact has allowed the IRG to assist the researchers to remain focussed on the priority areas identified by the IRG. This 2-way conversation builds capacity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people involved in the projects.

Table 7: Summary of Projects Managed by the IRG

Project	PI	Summary/Objectives	Status
2016-206 Business Nour – Indigenous business development opportunities and impediments in the fishing and seafood industry	Jill Briggs Rural Training Initiatives (RTI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An analysis tool to assess the success elements of indigenous fishing businesses and non-fishing Indigenous businesses ▪ A gap analysis of skills available and skills needed to develop and/or enhance the skills of people involved in Indigenous fishing businesses. ▪ Draft and finalise a Business template with conversation and workshop materials to enhance the Indigenous communities connected to Indigenous fishing ▪ Enhance the business skills of Indigenous fishing communities through the delivery of workshops, community conversations and virtual information sharing sessions 	2 nd Progress report submitted 2017.
2016-204 'Wave to plate' establishing a market for Tasmanian cultural fisheries	Stewart Frusher University of Tasmania (UTAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adapt successful terrestrial model to marine environments, investigating specific conditions of Tasmanian Government policy relating to Indigenous peoples. ▪ Assess cultural fishery extensions within commercial operations and determine best practice for government and industry partners. ▪ Explore the network chain opportunities for Indigenous involvement in food tourism. ▪ Develop postgraduate Indigenous research capacity and broaden scope of marine studies in academia. 	1 st Progress report submitted 2017.
2016-201 Business opportunities and impediments for Aboriginal community development in supportive fishing industries in the Roper River to Robinson River area of the Northern Territory.	Lorrae McArthur Northern Land Council (NLC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The overarching objective is to build the capacity of the Wurrailiba Management Committee in identifying well founded opportunities to grow local fishing sector economies, realising impediments and developing a strategy of steps to bring opportunities to fruition. ▪ Ensure community based planning approaches inform the project and meet specific needs of the community, particularly Aboriginal social and cultural aspirations in fishing and seafood sectors, which are often missed in mainstream planning stages. ▪ Support best practice through informed consent from Traditional Owners in all stages of enterprise development on their land and 	1 st Progress report submitted 2017.

Project	PI	Summary/Objectives	Status
		<p>tidal waters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop Traditional Owners networks with fishing industries, local Aboriginal Ranger programs, local business, relevant agencies and other stakeholder interests. ▪ Facilitate robust communication and relationship building among Traditional Owners and stakeholders through forums and consultations. ▪ Raise community awareness through networks and communication materials. ▪ Support a consultative process that facilitates the mapping of existing local fishing activity and services and identifies needs as well as new opportunities and gaps. ▪ Refine interests into potential business scenarios that can be used in a second phase of this project, which is to develop and test the feasibility of business cases. ▪ Report for the community that will provide a legacy product to assist the Wurrahiliba Management Committee in setting priorities and developing its interests over the next 10-15 years. 	
2015-205 Indigenous fishing subprogram: Mapping livelihood values of Indigenous customary fishing	Rod Kennet Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify cultural, social and economic values of Indigenous fishing at selected case study communities ▪ Articulate connections between established Indigenous land and sea management regimes ▪ Indigenous aspirations in fisheries ▪ Support the recognition of Indigenous values and use of aquatic resources in fisheries management ▪ Build Indigenous and non-Indigenous capacity for collaborative fisheries research and management 	Final Progress Report submitted 2017
2014-404 Planning, developing, coordinating Indigenous input to RD&E for Australia	Chris Calogeras C-AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with Indigenous fishers and other stakeholders, to facilitate identification of RD&E priorities annually, and develop projects to address those priorities. ▪ Assist FRDC with management of a portfolio of projects with 	Finalised Sept 2017 (link still outstanding)

Project	PI	Summary/Objectives	Status
fishing community - Indigenous RD&E Subprogram management		<p>significant benefit to, or impact on, the Indigenous fishing sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate dissemination of R&D outputs ▪ Manage FRDC's Indigenous development scholarships ▪ Encourage coordination and co-investment in RD&E which benefits the ▪ Indigenous fishing community. 	
2014-404.2 Indigenous fishing subprogram: Facilitation of the third FRDC National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Stakeholders Forum	Stan Lui IMCRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake a third FRDC National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forum with a view to providing formal advice to the participants on a range of matters as outlined in the methods section. ▪ The forum will provide an opportunity to seek advice from a wide range (industry experience and geographical locations) of Indigenous expertise and links to assist to improving FRDC's strategic investment in Indigenous focused RD&E. ▪ Provide a written report to FRDC that will allow the Board to further develop its investment in RD&E that has a significant benefit to Indigenous Australians. ▪ Enhance the current extension process to the broader Indigenous community, Commonwealth and State Departments and key national research programs (e.g. National Environmental Science Program, ▪ Caring for Country and Reef 2050 Strategic Investment Program) through the links and networks developed at the meeting. 	Finalised 2016. http://frdc.com.au/research/final-reports/Pages/2014-404-20-DLD.aspx
2014-233 Improving access for Indigenous Australians to and involvement in the use and management of Australia's fisheries resources	Stephan Schnierer Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review how Indigenous fisheries (ICF) 'issues' are addressed by fisheries management in Australia: (a) broadly, in policy and strategy, legislation, RD&E, reporting etc.; (b) specifically, in the assessment of impacts of non-Indigenous fisheries (nIF) on ICF; both to develop practical guidelines that deliver best practice. ▪ Conduct a national Indigenous workshop to develop a methodology to assess impacts of nIF on ICF and the associated risk factors and two Indigenous workshops at state/territory level focusing an iconic species targeted in IF and nIF to trial and refine the methodology. 	Draft Final Report Submitted 2017

Project	PI	Summary/Objectives	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write reports in appropriate language for activities in objectives 1 and 2 outlining the outcomes. 	
2014-226 Improving the recognition and integration of traditional owner customary fishing and ecological knowledge in the management of Victoria's fisheries	Michael Gilby Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (EDJTR) VIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a customary fishing database that identifies hunting grounds and use categories of fish species. Develop a structured and targeted approach to engagement with Victoria's Traditional Owner community. Support language retention and knowledge transfer from one generation to the next within a Traditional Owner group. Enables application of the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010. Explore the application of a Traditional Owner Recognition Permit (TORP) into Fisheries Management plans. 	4 th Progress Report submitted 2017
2013-218 Building the Capacity and Performance of Indigenous Fisheries	Ewan Colquhoun Ridge Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify 4-5 case study fishing communities (now 8), document aspirations and capacity, identify constraints to development outcomes, and test micro development pathways. Evaluate business models, conduct analyses and document development pathways to enhance Indigenous participation in and benefits from fishery development. Establish and document output and extension strategies for the IRG and participating regional Indigenous fishing communities. Document and report learnings case studies, models, performance monitoring arrangements, and recommendations that will enhance future Indigenous fishery performance and community benefits 	Draft Final Report submitted 2017 (additional case study has been identified and will be added)
2013-017 Optimising management of tropical reef fish through the development of Indigenous scientific capability	Thor Saunders NT DPIF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain information on stock structure of key tropical reef species Develop Indigenous capability in scientific monitoring and participation in co-management through the development of a certified training program Identify appropriate spatial scale of management for tropical reef fish based on biological sustainability and sectoral aspirations 	Finalised 2017 http://www.frdc.com.au/research/final-reports/Pages/2013-017-DLD.aspx

Forum 3 – A Communication Portal

Holding a 3rd National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forum (Forum 3) was a clear directive from the participants at Forum 2 and was a critical component of this project’s agreed outputs. As outlined in Section 2.3, the IRG worked with IMCRA and RTI to host Forum 3 in 2016. Around 55 participants from around Australia, made up of members of the IRG, along with a wider group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people attended.

Holding this Forum provided the first opportunity to showcase the outputs from research being undertaken, present preliminary results and to test its relevance with a large group of stakeholders to ensure that the research is addressing agreed needs based on the 11 Principles and Five RD&E Priorities area.

The research being undertaken and the direction was supported by Forum 3 participants as was the ongoing role of the IRG in facilitating improved Indigenous outcomes through the Subprogram and support provided by the FRDC.

The blend of Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants and the broad range of skills and expertise provided an excellent forum for information exchange and sharing of ideas.

Formal Input to Various Processes

As has been identified earlier a key aim of the IRG is to provide input based on evidence to the large range of policy issues that focus on fishing and seafood, as well as Indigenous specific matters. This has been at times via simple emails/calls to various agencies providing general (or specific) information.

The IRG did however provide detailed input via submissions and or other means to a range of forums. As can be seen from the Details provided in Table 8 below, a number of the IRG’s key focal areas have been adopted or recommended (fully or partially) as highlighted below in ***bold underlined italics***.

Table 8: Key IRG Correspondence or Submissions

Item/Audience/Date	Details
Indigenous Reference Group on Fisheries (IRG) Priority Areas – 2016 Federal Election. Coalition, Labour, Greens, Cross Bench 2017	Correspondence. Provided Five key IRG priority areas, plus following needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A National Indigenous Fishing Statement • Resource to collect national/regional Indigenous fishing data • Increased recruitment of Indigenous people within Agencies • <i>Increased Indigenous expertise on relevant Boards and groups</i> • <i>Agencies take into account Indigenous views in relation to fisheries management decisions.</i>
Fisheries Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (Representation) DAWR and Assistant	Correspondence. Sought clarity around a number of key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What ‘take into account’ means in respect to the Objectives • MAC size increase doesn’t specifically cover the need for Indigenous interests to be addressed • What expertise in Indigenous fishing matters means in relation to

Item/Audience/Date	Details
Minister Ruston 2016/2017	<p>appointment of AFMA Commissioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring adequate resourcing for Indigenous peoples' participation in the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) process • Ensuring Agency people who are involved in Indigenous consultation have appropriate cultural expertise to undertake that role • Government to instigate a process to develop a National Indigenous Fishing Statement.
Submission on Ecological Risk Management policy. AFMA 2017	<p>Submission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy is deficient in that it leaves out one other key ecosystem component which is Indigenous peoples, their communities and their culture, therefore ESD approach is flawed
Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Regulation of Australian Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors. Commissioner 2016	<p>Submission and supplementary correspondence. Highlighted Five key IRG priorities area, plus the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The rights and responsibilities of Indigenous Australians need to be recognised in fisheries management arrangements as equitable, foundational partners.</u> • <u>Customary fishing be recognised as a fishing sector in its own right in fisheries management regime and Indigenous Australians are adequately recognised in fishery legislation or policy across Australia</u> • <u>Expectations that Indigenous communities are central to developing ethics and protocol guidelines of sustainable use of fisheries resources</u> • <u>Building relationships and partnerships is critical to ensure engagement is adequate and appropriate</u> • <u>Need for a consistent, clear and harmonised approach to legislation addressing the needs of Indigenous Australians</u> • <u>The Indigenous sector being afforded a priority share of resources and any allocations or management controls are developed in consultation (i.e. led by) with Indigenous Australians.</u> • <u>Customary fishing allowing fishing activity for commercial purposes.</u>

IRG Project Assessment and Processes

The IRG formally assessed 28 Directed Projects and 39 Non-Directed Projects during the life of this project. The number of Indigenous focussed project numbers has increased from less than 2 per year (often nil), prior to the formation of the IRG, to around 11 - 12 per year since the IRG Program came into being.

A key role for the IRG was to provide advice, input and revision through the formal FRDC EOI process. IRG engagement involved three phases, prior to applications being developed, during the formal assessment process, and via project support through IRG engagement with the project PI and managers.

Prior to Project Development

Members of the IRG believe that project outcomes for Indigenous Australians and researchers will be improved if, as part of project development, there is an opportunity to provide advice to potential project developers on particular project aspects that will improve the project from an Indigenous perspective. This can be done formally through the IRG EO or via IRG members. Both these methods come with some risks as there is at times an assumption that because there has been IRG input or advice with respect to a project it will be supported during the formal process - this is not the case and potential project developers are advised as such.

It should be noted at times that IRG input has led to projects not being supported, in other instances there has been no change, although in most instances projects have been modified for positive Indigenous outcomes.

The IRG identified the need to be proactive in the development of Indigenous projects of significance (national and regional). This process is considered a valuable component of the project as it encourages communication and hopefully improves two-way understanding of the RD&E and Indigenous people's engagement and involvement.

Formal Project Assessment

The IRG formally assess two types of projects for the FRDC as part of its ToR. Projects that are focussed on specifically addressing Indigenous RD&E needs (i.e. Directed Projects) and other projects that have (or could/should have) an Indigenous aspect to them, or are national projects (Non-Directed Projects).

Importantly, the IRG advice to the RACs and participants relating to the 39 Non-Directed Projects led to changes in some instances as to how final applications were developed to increase Indigenous engagement and opportunity, or rewording to acknowledge the limited scope of the project by not including the Indigenous sector.

In line with FRDC protocols, formal advice is provided to the FRDC on each application via FISHNET. Input for specific applications is generally determined at the IRG meetings, but if necessary, is finalised out of session. Each project is assessed by IRG members using a formalised and documented process by reporting on the following:

- Application number and Project Title
- PI details
- Host Organisation details
- Co Investigator (CI) details (noting if any Indigenous involvement or not)
- FRDC Budget request - is it appropriate, adequate and/or justified?
- Number of years of project life
- IRG Priority - does the project address the current Indigenous priority areas?
- Whether it is supported as an IRG project - or should it to be directed to another FRAB/RAC, Subprogram or funding source
- IRG Ranking, low, medium or high, and justification
- Note role of other relevant FRAB/RAC and Subprogram
- Other Feedback and/or comments, e.g.;

 - suggested improvements or collaborations
 - what the IRG wants to see in the full application

- depth and width of engagement process (prior, during and post project)
- capacity building opportunities (two-way)
- communication protocols
- adoption pathways
- other relevant details.

Project Support

The IRG has been involved in around 10 approved applications during the life of this support project. The IRG seeks to provide ongoing feedback to these and other relevant projects via a number of means;

- Inviting PI and project teams to brief the IRG at one of its face to face meetings
- Inviting PIs to provide written summaries of the project's progress for consideration and/or feedback for IRG meetings
- Providing advice and input to Project Milestone reports
- Undertaking out of session meetings, phone calls or email conversations
- Providing submissions or advice to non Indigenous focussed projects that have (or should have) an Indigenous component or area of focus that have been identified by the IRG or the FRDC (Non-Directed Projects).
- Provide advice and input via project steering group.

Process to Improve inclusivity for IRG in RAC Indigenous Priority Setting and Contributions

The IRG always seeks to optimise Indigenous outcomes through the FRDC funding process via engagement, co-investment and development of outputs and outcomes that can have national as well as local benefit and adaptability. It was noted that the last round of funding under the new FRDC process had led to a situation where some individual RACs raised priority areas with an Indigenous flavour. This is considered very positive and is partly in response to a greater awareness and understanding of the importance of the Indigenous sector in the broader Industry context. However, there have been instances where RACs have failed to discuss these with the IRG and then sought Indigenous Subprogram funds, or to use the IRG as reviewers.

It was felt that this area will be worked on and improved on in the next iteration of funding to better collaborate, improve opportunity to develop relevant projects, and to co-invest in projects that are transportable, have national relevance and/or aren't in competition, or conflict, with existing IRG supported projects.

Conflicts of Interest

The fishing and seafood industry and researchers associated with it are a small group of people, and even less have expertise in Indigenous focussed RD&E. It is therefore to be expected that at times there will be potential conflicts of interest.

Where a conflict of interest is declared, or could potentially be perceived, for any member of the IRG or support staff, the identified individual is required to remove themselves from all discussions. These persons must also absent themselves from any evaluation in relation to identified reports or proposals and, where appropriate, to leave any deliberations in regard

to the development and agreement of recommendations to the FRDC (Attachment 2 for ToR). These conflicts are also noted in the meeting summaries and provided to FRDC, along with the IRG's project assessments.

5.3. Identify Alternate Resourcing Options to Progress Identified RD&E Priorities

The IRG continues to seek alternate resourcing options for Indigenous focussed fishing and seafood RD&E projects. This was to be in the form of cash contributions or through in-kind support. It has not proven simple to obtain cash contribution for FRDC IRG supported projects (the exception has been through project 2016-204).

Funding opportunities however have been identified through links and contacts, including AFMA, TSRA, DAWR, PM&C, ACIAR, RIRDC, IBA and Northern Agriculture CRC. Some of the funding sources are really more appropriate for extending outcomes rather than undertaking specific research such as sponsored by the FRDC. Opportunities via these sources have been forwarded to a number of potential project applicants for them to consider those as alternatives to FRDC funding.

There have been significant in-kind contributions to IRG supported projects. Based on the projects listed in Table 7

Table 7, that has amounted to \$2,703,071, along with \$80,000 cash contribution. This is for a total FRDC contribution of \$2,358,723 (see Table 9). This gives a return of better than 1:1 for each FRDC dollar committed to these Indigenous projects.

Table 9: Summary of FRDC funding and In-kind and Cash Contribution from Projects Identified in Table 7

Project	Applicant In-kind	Others In-kind	Cash	FRDC
2016/206	\$26,600	\$0	\$0	\$225,000
2016/204	\$66,442	\$20,000	\$80,000	\$255,195
2016/201	\$80,500	\$17,000	\$0	\$105,000
2015/208	\$143,000	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
2014/404	\$19,000	\$711,000	\$0	\$329,300
2014/404.2 ⁹	\$0	Est \$132,000	\$0	\$80,200
2014/233 ¹⁰	\$0	Est \$72,000	\$0	\$300,000
2014/266	\$163,444	\$0	\$0	\$154,572
2013/218	\$0	\$630,000	\$0	\$230,000
2013/017	\$464,185	\$157,900	\$0	\$379,456
Totals	\$963,171	\$1,739,900	\$80,000	\$2,358,723

Seeking co-investment remains a priority area for the IRG, along with encouraging individual RAC to develop and fund their own Indigenous focussed projects. The IRG is proposing to

⁹ In-kind was not included in this project application but was calculated based on attendance by 55 participants over 3 days @\$800/person/day

¹⁰ In-kind was not included in this project application but was calculated based on attendance by 45 participants over 2 days of workshops @\$800/person/day

formalise a process in its next iteration to better link with RAC, other Subprograms and IPA to extend project outcomes nationally from regionally focussed projects.

5.4. Manage FRDC’s Indigenous Development Scholarships

During the life of this project no additional scholarships were granted and those in place were allowed to wind down.

The IRG felt that there was a need to reassess the purpose and objectives of the scholarship. This was discussed at three IRG meetings with a range of options discussed and debated.

The end point was that the IRG members felt that the current scholarship program wasn’t delivering on what the IRG felt was its key need – to provide a pool of people with improved capacity to engage with researchers, policy makers and industry people.

To the end it was resolved to not seek to award further scholarships but to endorse, as a priority for the 2017/18 Call for Applications, a program that develops and delivers an Indigenous Capacity Building Program (see Priority 2016/17 - Indigenous Capacity Building Program as shown in Table 6). A number of EOIs have been assessed to deliver this program with an estimated start time late 2017 or early 2018.

6. PLANNED OUTCOMES

The planned outcomes and outcomes achieved are shown below in Table 10, and the Proposed Performance Indicators and Actual Outcomes in Table 11.

Table 10: Planned Outcomes and Actual Outcomes

Planned Outcomes	Actual Outcomes
Development of a shared view on national and regional RD&E priorities for the Indigenous sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forum 3 held to confirm priority direction for Indigenous RD&E - Development of annual priorities for the Indigenous sector that address agreed priority areas
Increased awareness and involvement in developing RD&E that meet the needs of Indigenous people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forum 3 held to confirm priority direction for Indigenous RD&E - Development of annual priorities for Indigenous sector that addresses agreed priority areas and are shared with key stakeholder groups, the FRDC and RACs - Increased engagement with stakeholders to share priority RD&E - FISH magazine now regularly showcases Indigenous RD&E focussed stories - Due to resourcing and capacity the overall engagement with the broader community remains relatively low
Projects deliver targeted, effective and timely RD&E activities addressing key priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All supported projects address one or more of the 5 RD&E Priorities - New projects address one or more of the 5 RD&E Priorities and focus on the annual Indigenous priority area (see Table 6)
Increased efficiency and synergies in addressing Indigenous peoples’, agencies’ and researchers’ needs relating to Indigenous engagement and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The continual sharing of the 11 Principles and 5 RD&E priorities allows all stakeholder groups to be able to focus resources on key areas - IRG members’ attendance at meetings increases consistency of message and provides direction

Planned Outcomes	Actual Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extension and involvement in current projects increases effective engagement - Some problems exist in linking individual RAC priorities with those of the IRG but a process to address this will be developed within the next year
Improved information sharing and engagement through improved networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The continual sharing of the 11 Principles and 5 RD&E priorities allows all stakeholder groups to be able to focus resources on key areas - IRG members' input through attendance at meetings and/or written submissions increases consistency of message and provides direction - Extension and involvement in current projects increases effective engagement - FISH magazine now regularly showcases Indigenous RD&E focussed stories - Although networks are increasing significantly, due to resourcing and capacity the overall engagement with the broader community remains relatively low
Enhanced coordination of RD&E and additional sources of funding and in-kind support for RD&E activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous RD&E is coordinated by focusing on the 5 RD&E priority areas in general and then providing an annual Indigenous priority ensures improved focus on a key area each year - The amount of in-kind funding exceeds 1:1 of FRDC funds expended on Indigenous focused projects (see Table 9) - Challenges still exist to source fund outside of FRDC for RD&E

Table 11: Proposed Performance Indicators and Actual Outcomes

Proposed Performance Indicators	Actual Outcomes
Face to face meetings of the IRG and out of session work are undertaken to address project objectives and requirements under the ToR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seven IRG face to face meetings were held (see Table 4) - Extensive out of session discussions were undertaken - Project objectives were addressed in line with the ToR
The number of projects that identify an Indigenous component, have Indigenous participants, are Indigenous focussed or deliver significant outcomes (i.e. projects of national significance) increase during the life of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IRG assessed 28 Directed Projects and 39 Non-Directed Projects during the life of this project - The number of Indigenous focussed projects increased from less than 2 per year (often nil), prior to the formation of the IRG, to around 10 – 11 per year since the IRG Program came into being. - 10 projects of national significance have been supported by the IRG (see Table 7) - The number of Indigenous PI, CI or staff identified is increasing - Two key priority areas; Capacity Building and Data Collection, have been identified for funding in the next one to two rounds
Quality of applications received by the FRDC, and evidence of improving consultation and engagement with Indigenous end-users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directed Projects are addressing the priority areas well and showing continual improvement in quality and understanding in respect to addressing Indigenous focussed RD&E. - The IRG and its members invest considerable resources in discussing RD&E project concepts with potential researchers and actual projects with existing researchers - Although networks are increasing significantly, due to

Proposed Performance Indicators	Actual Outcomes
	resourcing and capacity the overall engagement with the broader community remains relatively low
Indigenous focussed RD&E projects receive advice and assistance from the IRG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IRG and its members invest considerable resources in discussing RD&E project concepts with potential researchers and actual project with existing researchers - All applications assessed by the IRG provide specific advice to the researcher on how to improve their research when working with the Indigenous sector - All project PIs are invited to attend each IRG meeting and/or provide a brief synopsis for members to consider – directed feedback is provided after each meeting
Indigenous focussed RD&E priorities and input provided to essential (or key) forum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IRG members attend a wide range of forums to share Indigenous RD&E priorities and to add Indigenous focussed feedback to those forums (see examples at Table 5) - In other instances input may be via correspondence or submissions (see Table 8)
Identification of possible alternate resourcing options to progress RD&E priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The amount of in-kind funding exceeds 1:1 of FRDC funds expended on Indigenous focused projects (see Table 9) - Challenges still exist to source funds outside FRDC for RD&E
Increased level of familiarity with relevant R&D outputs among key stakeholder group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IRG members attend a wide range of forums and provide project updates and linkages to researchers - The IRG has developed a complete list of projects that have been funded by the FRDC that have an Indigenous focus, or significant component. - This list is shared at many forums such as the RPN, FRDC Board meetings, FRDC Representative Organisation Meetings, FRDC Annual Stakeholder meetings etc
An increased pool of people identified and developed through FRDC's scholarships and other people development investments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IRG members felt that the scholarship program was not adequately delivering on its people development objective, but instead was often providing funds to undertake 'mini projects' - The IRG recommended cessation of the program and instead have sought to develop a broader Indigenous Capacity Building Program which is anticipated to commence late 2017 or early 2018 - Over 100 people have attended the three Indigenous RD&E Forums that the IRG has hosted, with many maintaining an interest in the areas - Engagement with Indigenous people through IRG meetings, supported projects and meetings with the FRDC Board in regional areas has increased the network - The NSILP has had at least one Indigenous participant each year over the last five years, for a total of seven Indigenous graduates during that period - Although networks are expanding, resourcing and capacity issues still see a relatively small pool of capacity ready people

7. CONCLUSION

The scope of the IRG is primarily to ensure that fishing and seafood industry focused RD&E assists in delivering improved economic, environmental and social benefits to Australia's Indigenous people. The IRG achieves this by the members connecting and working with the FRDC and managing the FRDC's Indigenous Subprogram. The IRG members strongly

acknowledge that they do not speak on behalf of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, but with the endorsement of the participants at the three Indigenous RD&E Forums they feel they can provide high level strategic input and advice based on addressing the 11 Principles and five RD&E Priority areas.

This project continues to be successful in identifying gaps and in articulating priorities for the Indigenous sector. In addition, we are now starting to see findings of the commissioned research coming to fruition, with outcomes being extended, in real time, during the project life, plus on completion.

The knowledge that is being gathered through the IRG and the Indigenous Subprogram is increasing the understanding of this valuable sector, along with the commercial, aquaculture and recreational sectors. The previous Indigenous fishing and seafood RD&E landscape that was vacant is now being populated.

The IRG remains a focussed group that continues to provide input and assistance to the RD&E management, planning and assessment process that focuses on Indigenous fishing and seafood related issues, as well as providing strategic high level input to a range of other forums. However, due to the success of the IRG and its increased exposure, a range of other issues outside RD&E are now being directed to the IRG, as Agencies and others seek, by default, to deliver on the increased awareness of this sector's role in the broader Industry, and the need to acknowledge and engage with Indigenous Australians in respect to Management, Policy and RD&E. This is a double edged sword, as although it is wonderful that more people are now considering the Indigenous sector in their day to day processes, it places expectations beyond the identified role and resources of the IRG. Some people feel let down that the IRG cannot address all of their queries, or needs, so how to address this must be established in the next phase of the Program.

The IRG has shown itself to be a critical component of FRDC's portfolio of people and groups that provide strategic advice and as a sounding board for the organisation. The IRG, and through the projects now being supported, has expanded the FRDC access to Indigenous stakeholders, thereby increasing 2-way engagement and capacity building opportunities.

The IRG prides itself on inclusivity and this is highlighted when you refer to the extensive list of guests that are invited to IRG meetings (see Table 4 for list of guests) and meetings that IRG members attend (see Table 5 for a list of meetings attended) to share and discuss RD&E and broad policy and cultural matters. The group's role and activities continue to engender positive feedback and strong support from other key sectors the IRG interacts with.

The IRG seeks to increase jurisdictional Indigenous focussed RD&E that is funded through the individual (or combined) RACs and is supported by the IRG. This is still a work in progress, but over the life of the next round of Subprogram funding (if approved) this should be refined to maximise outcomes.

This success has only been possible through the hard work and commitment of the Indigenous women and men who have volunteered their time and knowledge to this process. The coordination of this group could not have taken place if the FRDC hadn't provided funding to resource the IRG to fulfil its role, and the other stakeholder groups hadn't embraced the opportunity.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The IRG continues to provide value to the FRDC and Indigenous and other stakeholders involved with fishing and seafood by providing a means to improve engagement with and input from an Indigenous perspective in respect to the Australian fishing and seafood industry.

As previously mentioned, although there has been significant progress in broadening stakeholders' understanding and support of the Indigenous sector and its place in the broader fishing and seafood industry a range of challenges and opportunities still exist.

Notwithstanding the progress made to date, the members of the IRG believe that there is a need to continue the Subprogram as many of the matters raised by the NFARDES that lead to the establishment of the IRG still exist, but are being systematically worked on via the projects being developed through the IRG and supported by the FRDC.

The primary recommendation from the IRG is to continue the Indigenous Subprogram and to utilise the expertise of the IRG to oversee its operation. The IRG also believe that the next iteration of the Subprogram would be more efficient if it was for a five year period instead of three as this support project was, possibly with a review at the three year mark instead.

9. EXTENSION AND ADOPTION

The outputs from the IRG and the Indigenous subprogram have been extended extensively during the life of this support project.

There has been significant progress in broadening stakeholders' understanding of the Indigenous sector and its place in the broader fishing and seafood industry allowing greater engagement and input from an Indigenous perspective with many aspects of the Australian fishing and seafood industry. This project has been exceptionally successful and the identified gap in articulating priorities for the Indigenous sector and a means for formal engagement at a national level has started to be addressed in a very short period.

The engagement with other stakeholders has been a key component of the project to date as highlighted in Table 4, the diversity and number of guests who attended IRG meetings was significant, with around 50 individuals meeting with the IRG, including; Traditional Owners, industry groups, researchers, agency staff and Federal politicians. This two-way communication and extension is a key project outcome.

In addition to the formal meetings of the IRG, the EO, Chair and/or IRG member(s), provided input at over 100 meetings with a range of organisations (Table 5)Table 4. Importantly these included large whole of industry or peak stakeholder events which involved contact with 1000s of industry participants, such as at Seafood Directions 2015 and 2017, FARDE-SGC, FRDC Representative Organisations meetings, a range of DAWR meetings, FRDC Board Meetings, FRDC Annual Planning Workshops, NAILSMA workshops, HDR Subprogram, RPN and major involvement in the 3rd National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Forum.

The IRG is now seen as a go to for information and engagement in respect to Indigenous participation in the broader fishing and seafood industry with this being a positive

(recognition of role and expertise), but also a negative in that often stakeholders look no further – this needs to be addressed as part of the next iteration of the Indigenous Subprogram and the IRG’s role.

There has also been much greater coverage with a number of Indigenous stories featured in the FRDC – Fish Magazine and through the FRDC social media portals. Project outputs are also being highlighted in a range of other media such as State/Territory Newsletters, and via AITSIS.

10. APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: Intellectual Property

No intellectual property was developed under this project and any knowledge gained through this project is available to the broader Australian fishing and seafood industry.

APPENDIX II: Project Staff

Chris Calogeras	C-AID Consultants	Director and PI
Gail Calogeras	C-AID Consultants	General Manager

APPENDIX III: BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- Briggs, J. and Lui, S. (2016). Indigenous fishing subprogram: Facilitation of the third FRDC National Indigenous Fisheries RD&E Stakeholders Forum, March 2016, Cairns, Queensland. FRDC Project 2014/404.20
- Calogeras, C., Carne, B., Lui, S. and Schnierer, S. (2011). Shaping Advice for Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E within the National Strategy Including Outcomes from the National Forum –March 2011, Cairns, Queensland. FRDC Project 2010/401.
- Calogeras, C., Carne, B., Lui, S., Schnierer, S., Denny, B., Lovett, D., Ah-Kee, D., Wright, L., Torres, P., Wilson, J. and Gilby, M. (2012). Outcomes of Cairns Forum 2012 – 2nd Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) Indigenous Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Forum. November 2012, Cairns, Queensland.
- Calogeras, C., Carne, R., Denny, B., Lovett, D., Ah-Kee, D., Wilson, J., Giles, K., Wright, L., Gilby, M., Torres, P., Lui, S. and Schnierer, S. (2015). Facilitation of the FRDC Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) to progress RD&E outcomes. Final Report FRDC Project No 2010/405.

11. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: IRG Membership

Name	Region	Period of Appointment ¹¹
Bryan Denny	Tasmania	2012 - 2017
Chels Marshall	New South Wales	2014 - 2017
Denise Lovett	Victoria	2011 - 2017
Dennis Ah Kee	Queensland	2011 - 2017
Francis Parriman	Western Australia	2015 - 2017
Klynton Wanganeen	South Australia	2014 - 2017
Matt Osborne	South Australia /NT	2014 - 2017
Michael Gilby	Victoria	2012 - 2017
Stan Lui	Torres Strait	2011 - 2017
Stephan Schnierer	New South Wales	2011 - 2017
Terry Yumbulul	Northern Territory	2014 – 2017

IRG Support

Name	Region	Period of Appointment
Chris Calogeras	Queensland	2011 - 2017
Jo Ruscoe	Australian Capital Territory	2011 - 2017

IRG Past Members

Name	Region	Period of Appointment
Jason Wilson	New South Wales	2012 - 2014
Kevin Giles	Western Australia	2011 - 2012
Loralee Wright	South Australia	2012 - 2013
Petris Torres	Western Australia	2012 - 2015
Robert 'Bo' Carne	Northern Territory	2011 – 2014 2015 - 2015

¹¹ Note - on completion of the IRG support project (2014-404), members seek reappointment or not by the FRDC Board as without the FRDC support the IRG has no resources to continue to operate

Attachment 2: IRG ToR

Attachment 3: Agendas IRG 10-17