



NINTI ONE: CRC REMOTE ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

CRC for Remote Economic Participation

Planning Workshop for the Projects:

Climate Change Adaptation, Energy Futures and Carbon Economies in Remote Australia

CRC for Remote Economic Participation

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To be held Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 August 2011

Corkwood Room, Desert Knowledge Precinct, Alice Springs

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day

Background to CRC-REP

The CRC for Remote Economic Participation (www.crc-rep.com.au) is a public-good research centre established to deliver solutions to economic disadvantage in remote Australia. It started in July 2010 and will run for seven years. Three research programs encompassing 13 projects will systematically investigate regional economic systems, developing enterprises, industries and education and employment systems. The CRC-REP is supported by the Commonwealth government and has 54 partner organisations that contribute \$110M in cash and in-kind resources to achieve the goals.

The CRC-REP is governed by Ninti One Limited and its Board of ten people. Jan Ferguson is the CRC-REP Managing Director. Other members of the Board are Paul Wand (Chair), Tom Calma (Deputy Chair), Glenise Coulthard (Adnyamathanha woman and Manager Aboriginal Health for the Port Augusta Hospital Cluster), Ian Davey (Emeritus Professor, University of South Australia), Harold Furber (Arrernte man, and Chair of the Desert Peoples Centre), Tanya Hosch (Social Policy Consultant), Alison Page (Tharawal woman and designer, artist and cultural planner), David Ritchie (CEO NT Department of Lands and Planning) and Tony Tate (Director, Research and Development, Curtin University).

The CRC-REP research Programs are outlined below:

Research Program 1 – Regional Economies: This Program aims to build robust and strong regional economies throughout remote Australia through our partners in government, industry and communities. Remote regions have unique characteristics that affect their economies. The projects comprising Program 1 are:

- Population Mobility and Labour Markets
- Enduring Community Value from Mining
- Climate Change Adaptation and Energy Futures

Research Program 2 – Enterprise Development: This Program will create models for successful medium and small enterprises that best suit remote locations, Aboriginal culture and industry opportunities. It will explore barriers to growth, such as distance from markets, fragile or faulty supply chains and ways to overcome high production costs. The Projects in this Program are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Economies
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism Product
- Aboriginal Cultural Enterprise
- Carbon Economies in Remote Australia
- Plant Business
- Precision Pastoral Management Tools

Research Program 3 – Investing in People: This Program is about finding and getting the very best from all the talent, ability, skills and potential of two thirds of a million people who live in remote parts of Australia. The current education and training pathways have largely failed to deliver what is needed by remote people, which in turn limits their later ability to participate in local, national and world economies. Our aim in this Program is to find ways to overcome this and deliver the employment, livelihoods, education and training most needed in remote communities and enterprises. The Projects in the Program are:

- Interplay Between Health, Wellbeing, Education and Employment
- Pathways to Employment
- Remote Education Systems

Over 20 workshops with a wide range of stakeholders were conducted in 2008 and 2009 to determine the topics to be researched in the CRC-REP. Since these workshops were held, an application for the CRC was submitted; it was successful in December 2009 and the legal and administrative start-up procedures have been completed (Jan–Nov 2010). The time has finally come when stakeholders and researchers can reconvene to plan and commence the projects of the CRC-REP.

Project background: Climate Change Adaptation, Energy Futures and Carbon Economies in Remote Australia

This project will research the inter-related areas of Climate Change Adaptation, Energy Futures and Carbon Economies in Remote Australia.

It is predicted that most regions of remote Australia will get warmer in coming decades, thereby lowering the comfort factor both outdoors and indoors. This could be expected to make living in remote Australia less attractive, resulting in increased difficulty of attracting and retaining people in remote settlements.

Remote regions of Australia will be particularly vulnerable to economic and social impacts of moves toward a non-fossil fuel, low-carbon emission economy because of the high reliance of fossil fuels as an energy source to transport goods and generate electricity. However, remote regions may also hold the key to much of Australia's energy future problems: there are large areas of land and abundant renewable energy sources to be harnessed.

The Carbon Economy research will focus on the development of carbon trading as a livelihood option for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote areas of Australia. The project needs to deliver on an understanding of the opportunities and impediments to a carbon trading economy in remote areas, including policy environment, economic reality, scale and scope of carbon management possibilities, livelihood and employment prospects, biology of a carbon management scheme and key knowledge gaps to progress. Livelihoods from carbon management in remote Australia may come from fire and/or grazing management to alter greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and carbon sequestration in growing plants and in the soil.

The project will be conducted in partnership with state, territory, federal and local government agencies, non-government organisations, private businesses, residents of settlements and communities in remote Australia.

Outputs

- A series of case studies that map pathways to alternative futures. The case studies will include impacts of, and strategies to ameliorate, the intensity of climate change scenarios on:
 - health and wellbeing
 - housing and energy infrastructure planning
 - industries and enterprises.
- Scenarios for remote energy futures at scales from household to community to regional
- Enterprise development options that can be based on plentiful renewable energy
- Models of new carbon economy business opportunities for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people using traditional knowledge and land management skills.

Workshop format

The objectives of this workshop are:

- To hear from stakeholders and researchers regarding:
 - current and predicted future opportunities, challenges and aspirations for Climate Change Adaptation, Energy Futures and Carbon Economies in Remote Australia
 - research needs and priorities of stakeholders
 - prioritisation of research activity for CRC-REP, including case study sites
 - recommended models of engagement by CRC-REP researchers with stakeholders, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

- To discuss the processes by which research activities will be developed and initiated including:
 - consultation with additional relevant stakeholders
 - formulation and confirmation of research questions with stakeholders and partners
 - activities within the research program
 - short-, medium- and long-term outputs and goals.

See you there,

Kevin Williams and Ashley Sparrow

Further information on CRC-REP is available at the website: www.crc-rep.com.au