

# Desert Knowledge CRC: Facts and Figures

Desert knowledge: the knowledge we all have about living well and sustainably in the desert

*Almost three-quarters of Australia is desert, supporting 3% of our population.*

*One third of the world's land mass is desert, home to 1.5 billion people – a huge export market for desert knowledge.*

• The Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) is a national research network with 27 partners nationwide.

• The Desert Knowledge CRC links Aboriginal and local desert knowledge with science and research training to create economic opportunities for desert people and to make a demonstrable difference to remote Aboriginal communities.

• It aims to find research solutions in the following six areas: livelihoods from natural and cultural resource management, desert industry opportunities, desert businesses, sustainable desert settlements, accessible desert services and thriving desert regions.

• It also carries out externally funded contract research (\$1 million worth in 05/06).

• It is governed by a national board with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal directors.

• It was set up in 2003 under the Federal Department of Education, Science and Training's CRC Programme.

• It is one of 158 CRCs established by the federal government, 71 of which are currently operating in six industry areas.

• Its partners fund it through cash and in-kind contributions totalling \$90 million over its 7 year life (2003–2010).

• In 05/06 its partners contributed \$1 million of in-kind above their budgeted commitments.

• Since its inception it has been instrumental in creating \$22 million worth of economic benefits.

• 250 researchers around the nation work with the Desert Knowledge CRC and are based in all states and territories with significant desert regions.

• It supports 28 postgraduate students.

• It has a small secretariat in Alice Springs, employing 10 people.

• From 2007 it will share the first building of the new Alice Springs Desert Knowledge Precinct with its sister organisation Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA), a cross-border networking organisation.

• Every \$200 put towards a CRC generates a \$300 return for tax payers to the economy.

• The net economic benefit for the Australian economy from the CRC Program for the 1991–2010 period is \$2.7 billion.

• It takes nine years to reap the benefits from a CRC.

• GDP is now more than \$330 million higher per year than it would have been without the CRC Programme.



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**For more information: [www.desertknowledgecrc.com.au](http://www.desertknowledgecrc.com.au)**

**MEDIA FACT SHEET**





### **Centre partners**

Australian Government (OIPC)  
Central Land Council  
Charles Darwin University  
CSIRO  
Curtin University of Technology  
Desert Peoples Centre  
Griffith University  
James Cook University  
Murdoch University  
Newmont Australia  
Northern Territory Government  
University of South Australia  
Western Australian Government

### **Associate partners**

Australian National University  
Department of Primary Industries, NSW  
Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, SA  
Flinders University (Centre for Remote Health)  
Southern Cross University  
The University of Adelaide  
The University of Queensland  
The University of Western Australia  
University of Wollongong

### **Affiliate partners**

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies  
Indigenous Australian Foods  
Robins Foods  
Tapatjatjaka Community Government Council  
Waltja Tjuṯangu Palyapayi

### **List of Board members**

Paul Wand (Chair)  
Noel Bridge (Deputy Chair)  
Harold Furber  
John Taylor  
Glenise Coulthard  
Mark Chmielewski  
Roger Smith  
Christine Charles  
Jan Ferguson (Managing Director, Desert Knowledge CRC)