

Fisheries Research & Development Corporation: Independent Performance Review 2024

Terms of reference

1. Assess performance of the FRDC in meeting its obligations under the PIRD Act and the 2020-2030 SFA with the Commonwealth, with reference to:
 - the five Performance Principles (see below) and associated Key Performance Indicators, as described in the SFA and the Guidelines;
 - the Best Practice Guide to Stakeholder Consultation; and
 - the RDC knowledge transfer and commercialisation guide.
2. Assess FRDC's development and implementation of its R&D Plan 2020-25, including the delivery of benefits to FRDC's stakeholders and community in general, and the degree to which FRDC investments have met the needs of stakeholders, including synthesis and analysis of feedback from FRDC stakeholders received through a range of current consultative processes, including:
 - FRDC's 2023 Stakeholder Survey;
 - Consultation with FRDC's Representative Organisations by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as part of FRDC's annual performance evaluation;
 - FRDC's stakeholder planning workshop; and
 - Consultation to inform a recent review of the performance of FRDC's Board.

The external provider retains ability to undertake targeted stakeholder engagement to validate key insights and/or address any knowledge gaps they identify within existing inputs, as they deem necessary.

3. Assess the efficiency and effectiveness with which FRDC has carried out its R&D Plan 2020-25, including its:
 - liaison with stakeholders;
 - cross-RDC collaboration;
 - corporate governance;
 - industry strategy and delivery, including the opportunity for stakeholders to influence the investment of funds and the Return on Investment achieved; and
 - the effectiveness of FRDC's investments.
4. Assess how FRDC conducts its business, review the efficiency and effectiveness of FRDC's current processes, and assess if current processes are fit for purpose, encapsulating best practice for stakeholder engagement, and approaching business with an 'excellence in customer service' lens.
5. Assess FRDC's implementation and the effectiveness of actions taken to address feedback/recommendations from its previous Independent Performance Review (2018-19), including actions listed in the Performance Review Response and Implementation Plan and a comparison with the previous Review's findings to identify what has/has not changed.

The 'Performance Principles' are:

- a. To engage stakeholders to identify RD&E priorities and activities that provide benefits to the industry;
- b. To ensure RD&E (and marketing) priorities and activities are strategic, collaborative and targeted to improve profitability, productivity, competitiveness and preparedness for future opportunities through a balanced portfolio;
- c. To undertake strategic and sustained cross-industry and cross-sectoral collaboration that addresses shared challenges and draws on experience from other sectors;
- d. For governance arrangements and practices to fulfil legislative requirements and align with contemporary Australian best practice for open, transparent, and proper use and management of funds; and
- e. To demonstrate positive outcomes and delivery of RD&E (and marketing) benefits to levy payers and the community in general, and show continuous improvement in governance and administrative efficiency.