Research utilisation

Introduction

The Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC is implementing a research utilisation program that maximises CRC research by working with our partners to foster research adoption and utilisation. The CRC defines research utilisation as the systematic implementation of CRC research into the emergency management sector. Successful utilisation requires a dynamic approach that evolves with the development of the research, allowing for the transition towards applied utilisation.

Translating research into high impact outcomes

Turning research investment into high impact outcomes is a general framework for describing how investment in research can lead to high impact outcomes with a reasonable likelihood of success (Fig. 1).

Stage	Details
Setting research directions	• End-users identify needs • Acquire best value research
Maintaining and refining focus	• Ensure active engagement by end-user on research projects • Ensure ongoing advice from, and access to, end-users
Identifying mechanisms for application	• End-user identification of utilisation opportunities • Communication with end-users to ensure readiness to accept products
Translating research into product	• Undertaking translation of research outputs into usable products. • Communicating to ensure readiness to accept products.
Utilisation of research product	• Ensuring end-users have necessary capability and capacity • Assisting in product deployment.
Enhanced capability	• Being able to consistently achieve something new or significantly better

Core Business of the CRC

Utilisation roadmap

Figure 1 - Turning research investment into high impact outcomes

Utilisation roadmaps

The CRC will support utilisation through support services and the development of tools such as the roadmaps, in collaboration with researchers and end-users from each project.

An utilisation roadmap is a simple presentation of research utilisation objectives against a project timeline. They are high level and articulate a shared vision of utilisation, outlining opportunities and basic actions necessary for initiating more detailed business plans.

The roadmaps are designed to benefit end-users by facilitating uptake of research outputs, as well as provide the CRC and all stakeholders a common understanding of the steps required for successful uptake.

It is expected these roadmaps will reflect the breadth of research across the CRC; while some research will provide tangible and operationally focused outputs, other areas will be influencing knowledge and policy positions. There is no one approach to the development of a roadmap as each is unique, although there are common features such as timelines, research outputs, utilisation activities, communication requirements and milestones. It is entirely up to the end-users and the project team how this information is best put together.

The roadmaps are designed to benefit end-users to help facilitate uptake of research outputs. They are not designed to be onerous; they can be as long or short as required.

Roles and responsibilities

Responsibility for development and implementation of utilisation will be a collaborative effort between the CRC, project end-users and researchers.

The CRC will provide strategic leadership in utilisation. This will include the development of key partnerships, opportunities and roadmaps to maximise successful research output uptake.
End-users will be the conduit between the CRC and researchers, ensuring utilisation tools such as roadmaps are well informed and have the best chance of success. End-users, with support from the CRC, will be responsible for uptake of utilisation opportunities in their organisation.
Researchers will work with end-users and the CRC to support development of utilisation opportunities, ensuring research has the best possible chance of successful uptake.

Utilisation register

The CRC will collate an utilisation register to capture outputs currently being utilised or those with the potential to be so. The register will demonstrate and verify:

- The increase in the value derived from research investment
- New and/or improved capabilities for emergency management
- Intellectual property register
- Identified utilisation opportunities
- Potential adopting partners
- Application of products
- Measures of research outputs
- Impact post-utilisation.

Utilisation measurement and evaluation

The CRC is working on a monitoring and evaluation framework for the utilisation program. This framework will use the utilisation register, quantitative and qualitative research tools and stakeholder analysis to evaluate utilisation. In addition, the CRC will work with proactive project groups to demonstrate good practice in utilisation, providing models for the broader CRC research program.