Regional Universities Network

REGIONAL STRENGTH. NATIONAL SUCCESS.

RESEARCH PROFILES OF REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES

2025

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY | CQUNIVERSITY | FEDERATION UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA | SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND | UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND | UNIVERSITY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST

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WHO WE ARE

The Regional Universities Network (RUN) is the peak body for seven regionally headquartered universities.

We advocate on behalf of regional universities, regional students and regional communities.

We seek to raise the profile of our member universities while identifying opportunities for their collaboration, both domestically and abroad.

ALEC WEBB

CEO OF THE REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

PROFILE OF RUN UNIVERSITIES

RUN universities enrol over 160,000 students across a network of 40 campuses nationally. This represents approximately 11 per cent of all students studying in Australia today.

RUN universities provide nation leading learning and teaching, develop highly-skilled workforces to regional communities while also engaging in transformational place-based research to the betterment of Australia's diverse regions.

RUN universities are comprehensive institutions undertaking important research and innovation roles in regional Australia through highly-applied and impactful research.

RUN universities lead the nation in the research fields of:

- Environmental science and management
- Agriculture and veterinary sciences
- Agriculture, land and farm management
- Fisheries and forestry sciences.

RUN universities conduct a rich diversity of specialised research recognised as 'above world standard' in important research fields including:

- Engineering
- Nursing
- Astronomical and Space Sciences
- Geology
- Oceanography
- Technology
- Neurosciences.

RUN MEMBERS ARE:

Charles Sturt University

CQUniversity AUSTRALIA

Federation University

Southern Cross University

une University of New England

University of Southern Queensland

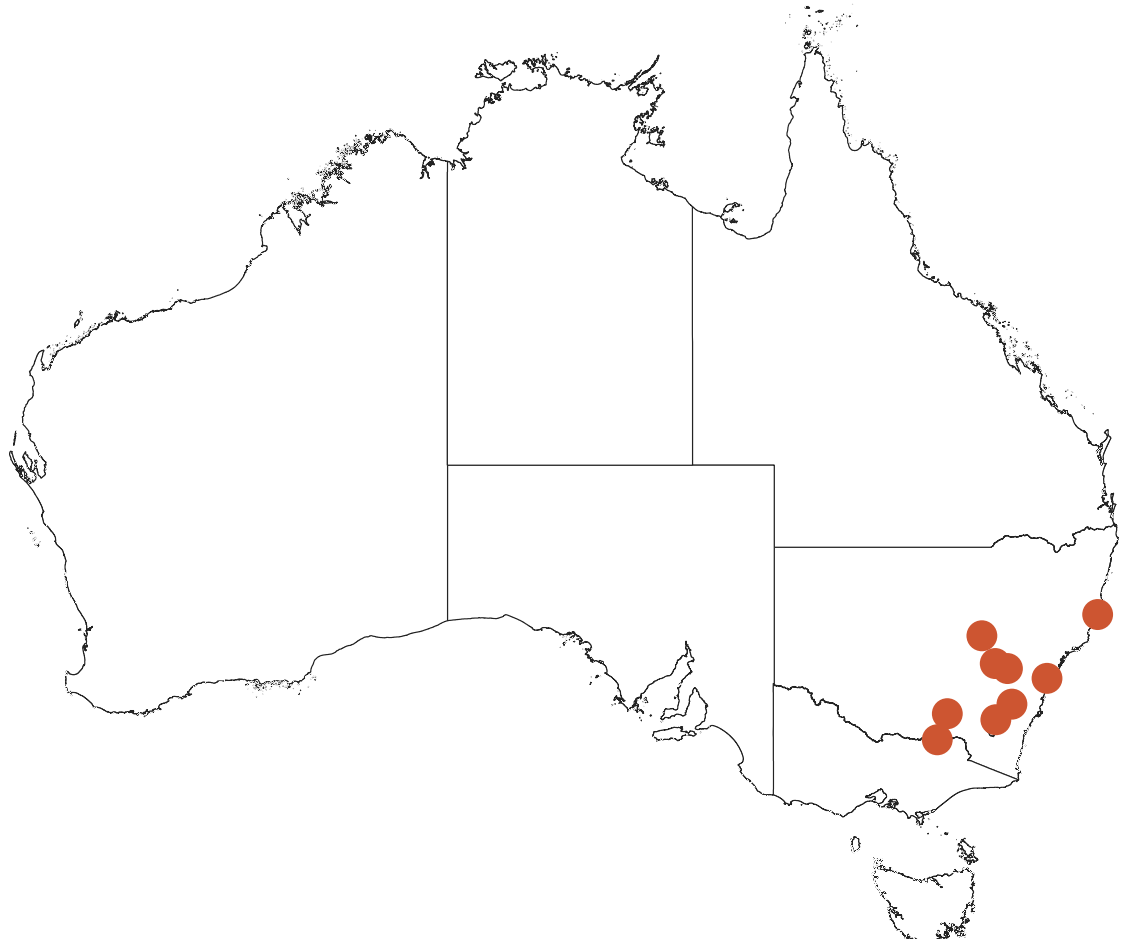
University of the Sunshine Coast

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

Charles Sturt University was founded in 1989 but has a history that traces back to 1895 and has nine campuses across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Charles Sturt University is ranked number one in Australia for undergraduate employment and undergraduate starting salaries.

Charles Sturt University is also Australia's first certified carbon neutral university.



37,000 STUDENTS

240,000+ GRADUATES

2,000+ STAFF

Charles Sturt University

Charles Sturt University has a history of discovery from turning human hair into graphite for lithium-ion batteries to eliminating the tropical parasitic disease schistosomiasis to saving the stocky galaxias fish from extinction.

Charles Sturt University dates back to 1895, with the establishment of the Bathurst Experiment Farm. Formed progressively through the merger of regional institutions in south-western and western New South Wales, the University was formally incorporated on 19 July 1989 under the Charles Sturt University Act 1989.

WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 2 DIGITS

Agricultural & Veterinary Sciences

Education

Environmental Sciences

Information & Computing Science

Philosophy & Religious Studies

Physcial Science

Studies in Human Society

RANKINGS DETERMINED BY THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL'S MOST RECENT EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA EVALUATIONS.

WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 4 DIGITS

- Criminiology
- Ecological Applications
- Ecology
- Environmental Science and Management
- Fisheries Sciences
- Forestry Sciences
- Horticulture Production
- Human Geography
- Human Movement & Sports Science
- Materials Engineering
- Medical Microbiology
- Neurosciences
- Nursing
- Policy and Administration
- Psychology
- Veterinary sciences
- Zoology

RESEARCH IMPACT

The launch of the Charles Sturt University Biosecurity Hub has made a significant advancement in Australia's capacity to manage biosecurity risks that threaten agriculture, the environment, and community wellbeing. The Hub brings together leading researchers, scientists, and trainers to address the escalating dangers posed by pests, diseases, and invasive species across the Indo-Pacific region.

The Biosecurity Hub focuses on early detection, prevention, and rapid response to protect the nation's food supply, agricultural production, and natural ecosystems. Through a multidisciplinary approach—integrating expertise from microbiology, veterinary science, environmental science, artificial intelligence, and biosecurity training—the Hub aims to mitigate the impact of current and emerging biosecurity threats.

A critical component of the Hub is the THRIIVE program (Training Hub promoting Regional Industry and Innovation in Virology and Epidemiology), which equips researchers and practitioners to combat zoonotic diseases. These include foot-and-mouth disease virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, avian influenza, swine flu, and Hendra virus—all of which have the potential to severely disrupt agriculture, trade, and public health.

The Biosecurity Hub leverages Charles Sturt's extensive partnerships with state and federal government agencies, industry groups, and international stakeholders to ensure a coordinated response to biosecurity challenges. The Hub's focus includes traceability innovation, capacity building, and cross-sector collaboration to enhance the resilience of the agricultural sector and prevent the spread of invasive species and diseases.

With more than 640 graduates specializing in biosecurity-related fields over the past five years, Charles Sturt University continues to develop future leaders equipped with the expertise needed to safeguard critical sectors.

CQUNIVERSITY

CQUniversity was founded as a university in 1989 but has a history that traces back to 1967. Today it has 11 campuses spanning across Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

CQUniversity is ranked third in Australia for undergraduate and seventh for postgraduate full-time employment and starting salaries.

CQUniversity is proud to be a benchmark leader for how universities engage with industry to deliver research with true impact. CQUniversity's focus on practical, applied research delivers real-world solutions that make a difference to their communities both locally and globally.

A commitment to strong business and community partnerships allows CQUniversity to develop constructive outcomes and identify new opportunities for advancement in a diverse range of research fields.

This approach has allowed CQUniversity to be recognised as conducting research that is at, above or well above world standard in an impressive 22 categories in the latest Excellence in Research Australia results.

22,000 STUDENTS

130,000+ GRADUATES

2,500+ STAFF

WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 2 DIGITS

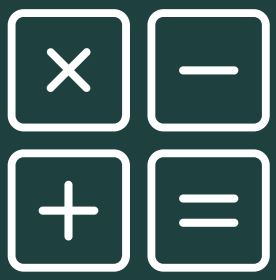
Agricultural & Veterinary Sciences

Biological Sciences

Engineering

Environmental Sciences

Information & Computing Sciences



Mathematical Sciences

Medical & Health Sciences

Psychology & Cognitive Sciences

RANKINGS DETERMINED BY THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL'S MOST RECENT EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA EVALUATIONS.

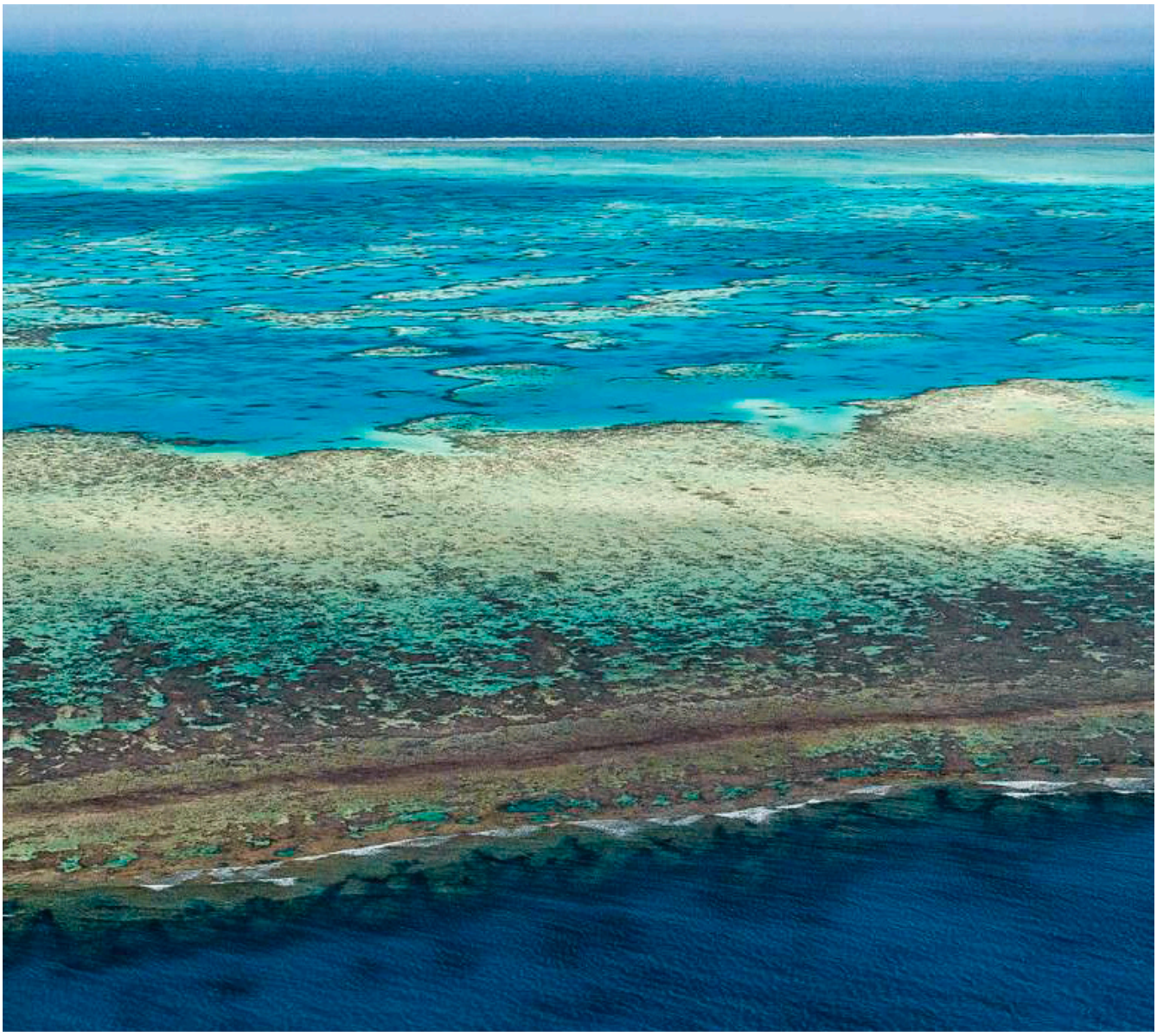
WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 4 DIGITS

Agriculture, Land and Farm Management	Nursing
AI and Image Processing	Other Psychology and Cognitive Sciences
Electrical and Electronic Engineering	Public Health and Health Services
Environmental Science and Management	Psychology
Horticulture Production	Pure Mathematics
Human Movement and Sports Science	Specialist Studies In Education
Mechanical Engineering	Zoology

RESEARCH IMPACT

CQUniversity's Coastal Marine Ecosystems Research Centre (CMERC) is the only research facility located in Central Queensland focusing on the southern Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Our research is providing environmentally sustainable solutions that protect the reef, allow growth of Australia's multi-billion-dollar blue economy, support the upstream agricultural communities, all while collaborating with Central Queensland stakeholders. There is a strong appetite for innovation and the development of evidence-based best practice among both industry and regulators, particularly to support the verification of environment offset projects. The applied nature of CMERC research addresses all these goals.

CMERC is currently undertaking groundbreaking research into seagrass restoration working with coastal industries and communities to develop practical and sustainable solutions. Seagrasses are disappearing at an alarming rate



globally. In Australia, seagrass meadows are at critical levels which could potentially have disastrous outcomes for our coastal ecosystems.

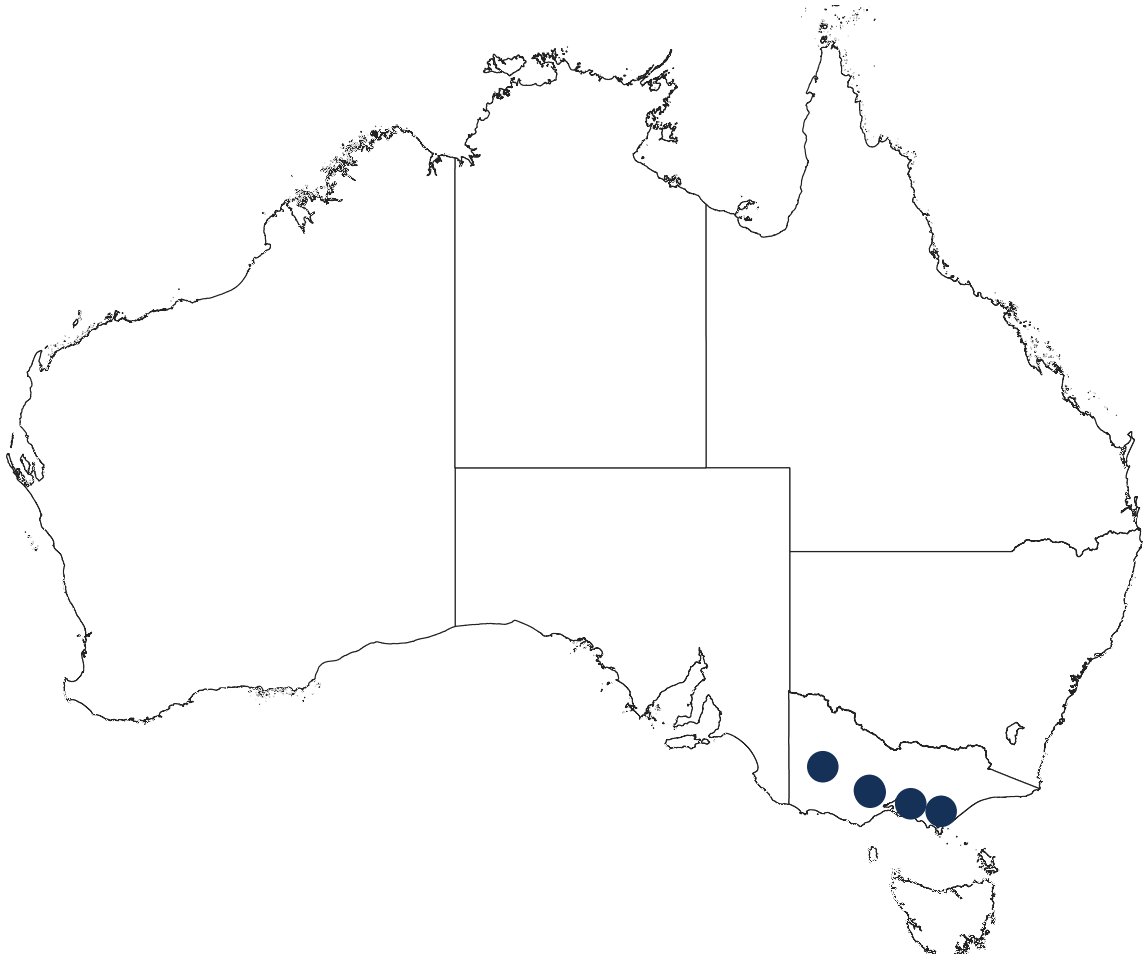
CQUniversity's seagrass restoration research program continues to explore ways to restore and grow seagrass meadows in the sub-tropical estuary of the Port of Gladstone. Seagrass meadows are susceptible to urbanisation, due to the fact they grow in sheltered parts of the coast and estuaries where urban development occurs.

Opportunities exist to use this development to the benefit of seagrass rather than their detriment. Seagrass meadows are vital to the health of the marine ecosystem, providing important 'ecosystem services'. This research project continues to provide insight into how seagrass meadows can be restored and grown in regions of extreme conditions. It contributes to a global body of research which hopes to restore balance to marine ecosystems around the world.

FEDERATION UNIVERSITY

Federation University Australia was formed when the former University of Ballarat and the Gippsland Campus of Monash University were amalgamated in 2014, but has a history that traces back to 1870. Federation University Australia has four campuses across Victoria.

Federation University Australia is one of the top 200 young universities in the world.



13,000 STUDENTS

123,000+ GRADUATES

1,000+ STAFF

Federation University

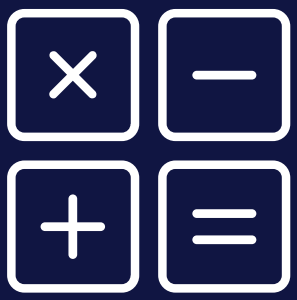
Federation University aims to transform lives and enhance communities. Industry connection allows their reserearchers to explore real-world challenges and make a difference, both locally and globally.

Today, Federation University is regional Victoria's largest education institution, with campuses in Ballarat, Berwick, Gippsland and the Wimmera. Federation Univeristy is dual sector, which means they offer both higher education and TAFE courses.

WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 2 DIGITS

Environmental Sciences

Information & Computing Sciences



Mathematical Sciences

Medical & Health Sciences

Psychology & Cognitive Sciences

Studies in Human Society

RANKINGS DETERMINED BY THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL'S MOST RECENT EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA EVALUATIONS.

WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 4 DIGITS

AI and Image Processing	Historical Studies
Applied Mathematics	Human Movement and Sports Sciences
Civil Engineering	Nursing
Clinical Sciences	Pure Mathematics
Education Systems	Psychology
Environmental Science and Management	Sociology

RESEARCH IMPACT

Federation University's Future Regions Research Centre led a national effort to address the shortage of affordable and sustainable housing in regional areas. The study developed a practical model to overcome the barriers that prevents housing investment outside of capital cities, ensuring more cost-effective developments can take root in regional communities.

The project is a vital step toward rebalancing housing supply initiatives, which have traditionally been centred on urban areas. While national programs often address housing shortages, regional Australia's unique challenges—including high construction costs and fragmented policies—have been largely overlooked. Federation's research aimed to close this gap by bringing together regional communities, housing suppliers, industry leaders, and government partners to develop innovative solutions tailored to regional contexts. The study identified and removed the barriers preventing developers, investors, and policymakers from extending capital-city housing strategies to regional locations.

A major focus of the research is understanding why developers and investors view regional projects as higher risk compared to urban developments, despite evidence to the contrary. By reimagining affordable housing as infrastructure—similar to bridges or tunnels—the study seeks to demonstrate that regional investments can offer stable, long-term returns. This shift in perspective could unlock new sources of funding from developers, superannuation funds, and other investors, paving the way for a more equitable housing landscape across the country.

In addition to reshaping perceptions, the project uses advanced machine learning tools to analye housing supply and demand over a 30-year horizon. Early tests have shown that these models can accurately forecast market conditions with only minor deviations, providing invaluable insights for future planning.

With Federation University's deep connections to regional Australia and a multidisciplinary research team, the project's findings will not only influence housing policy but also open doors for further research into the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable living.

SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY

Southern Cross University was established in 1994 and today has six campuses across New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia.

Southern Cross University was ranked first in Australia for Overall Student Experience, Student Support, Learning Resources, Teaching Quality and Skills Development in Engineering and Technology.

Southern Cross University's research focuses upon protecting and enhancing the future. From ocean and marine health, to support for young people, to the next generation of agriculture: serving local regions is at the core of the university's research agenda that at the same time delivers a global impact.

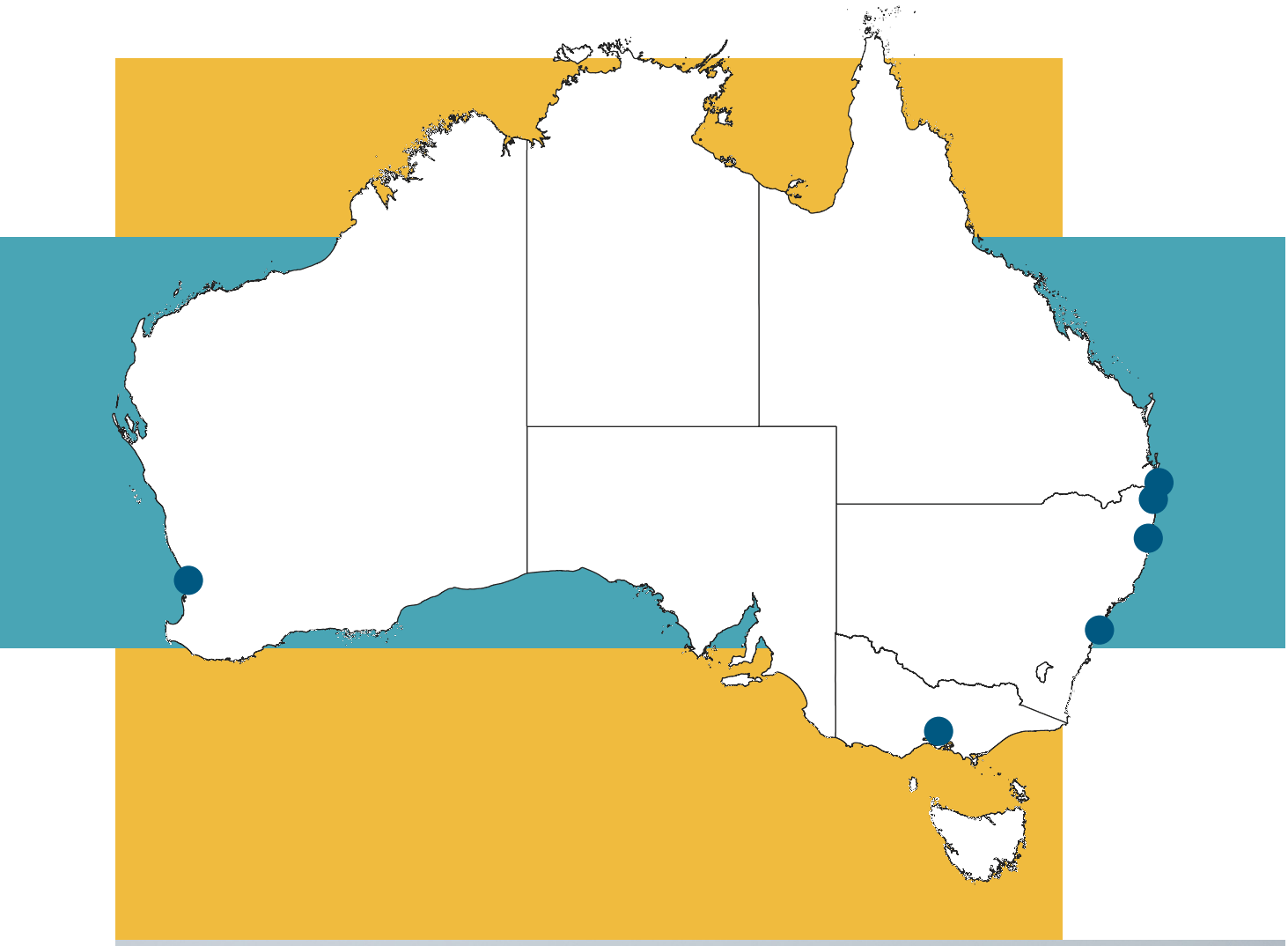
Southern Cross University's researchers excel in a multitude of settings. Tackling the world's problems requires collaboration and dedication, an approach embraced by Southern Cross University's Research Impact Clusters that bring together the best in their fields to share and strive for solutions.

18,000 STUDENTS

78,000+ GRADUATES

950+ STAFF

Southern Cross University



WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 2 DIGITS

Agricultural & Veterinary Sciences

Biological Sciences

Earth Science

Engineering

Environmental Sciences

Medical & Health Sciences

RANKINGS DETERMINED BY THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL'S MOST RECENT EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA EVALUATIONS.

WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 4 DIGITS

Civil Engineering	Human Movement and Sports Science
Complimentary and Alternative Medicine	Nursing
Crop and Pasture Production	Oceanography
Curriculum and Pedagogy	Policy and Administration
Ecology	Resources Engineering and Extractive Metallurgy
Environmental Science and Management	Soil Sciences
Fisheries Sciences	Tourism
Forestry Sciences	Zoology
Geochemistry	

RESEARCH IMPACT

Southern Cross University is leading the way in reshaping the future of rice farming with a groundbreaking approach that dramatically reduces the environmental impact of one of the world's most essential crops. The innovative research in dryland rice production is empowering Australian farmers to grow rice varieties that require less water and produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring a more sustainable future for agriculture.

This initiative introduces a climate-smart alternative to traditional rice farming, which relies heavily upon flood irrigation. By developing rice varieties that thrive on natural rainfall rather than irrigation, the project addresses two critical environmental challenges: conserving water and reducing methane emissions, a major contributor to climate change.

By eliminating flood irrigation, the project reduces pressure on natural water sources, creating a more sustainable farming system. Dryland rice farming also minimizes methane emissions produced by bacteria that live in the soil of the flooded paddies under oxygen-restricted conditions, helping Australia's agricultural sector contribute to national and global climate goals.

This research offers more than just environmental benefits—it ensures that Australian farmers can continue to thrive, even in the face of changing climate conditions. The new dryland rice varieties are designed to be drought and cold-tolerant, helping farmers maintain productivity and profitability despite weather extremes.

The research is centred in NSW's Northern Rivers region, where high rainfall provides the ideal environment for testing dryland rice production. Collaborating closely with an industry partner, the project focuses on breeding rice that can withstand the unique challenges of the region.

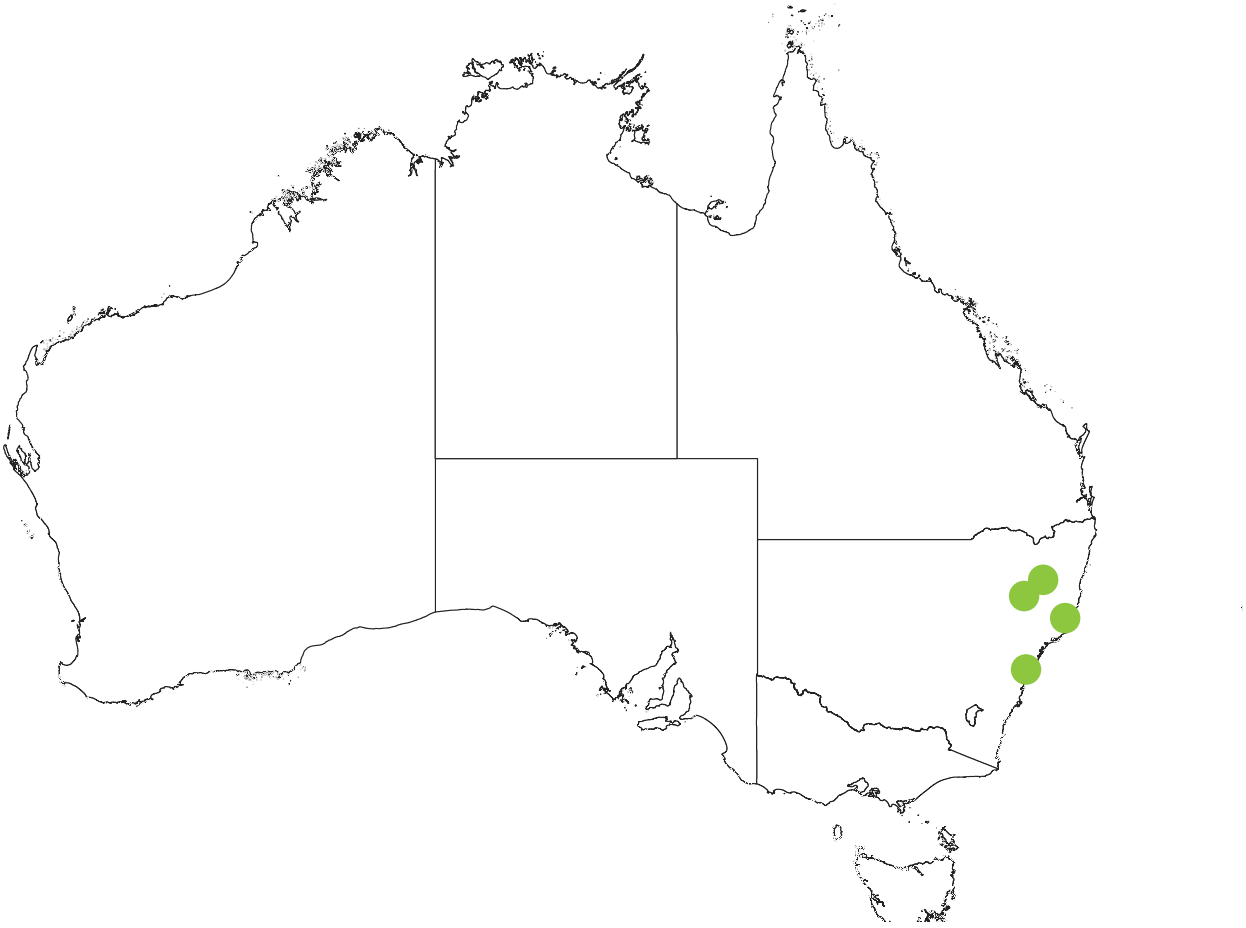
As global agriculture faces mounting climate challenges, Southern Cross University's work offers a scalable solution for sustainable food production, setting a new benchmark for rice farming in Australia.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

The University of New England became a university in 1954, but has history tracing back to 1938. The University of New England has four campuses across New South Wales.

The University of New England was the first Australian university established outside a capital city and pioneered teaching to external students by correspondence, making it Australia's most experienced provider of distance and now online education.

The University of New England works to ensure that its research is relevant and responsive to today’s challenges, and insightful towards the future needs of individuals and communities.



22,000 STUDENTS

100,000+ GRADUATES

1,300+ STAFF

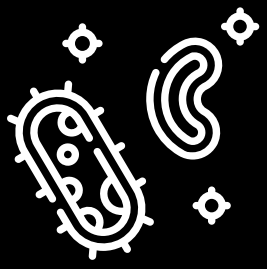
une
University of
New England

The university continues to build research excellence and develop a culture where achieving impact with research is an integral part of academic life that is both rewarding and rewarded, and institutionally acknowledged and supported.

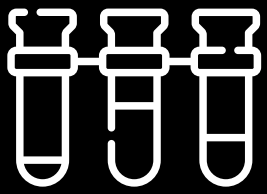
Rigorous, ethical, world-class research is a key driver for the University of New England's reputation and fundamental to its objective of ensuring the individuals, communities and partners with whom it engages are prepared to meet future economic, social and environmental challenges and opportunities.

WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 2 DIGITS

Agricultural & Veterinary Sciences



Biological Sciences

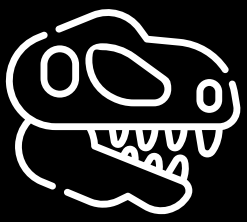


Chemical Sciences

Earth Science

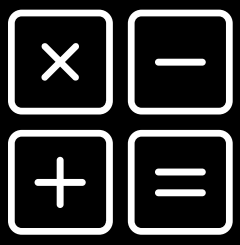
Education

Environmental Sciences

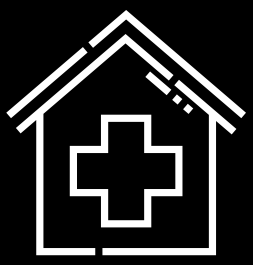


History and Archaeology

Law & Legal Studies

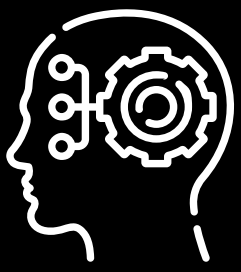


Mathematical Sciences

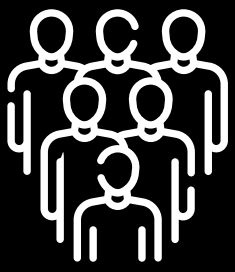


Medical & Health Sciences

Philosophy & Religious Studies



Psychology & Cognitive Sciences



Studies in Human Society

RANKINGS DETERMINED BY THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL'S MOST RECENT EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA EVALUATIONS.

WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 4 DIGITS

Agriculture, Land and Farm Management	Linguistics
Animal Production	Literary studies
Archaeology	Macromolecular and Materials Chemistry
Curriculum and Pedagogy	Nursing
Ecology	Other Medical and Health Sciences
Education Systems	Philosophy
Environmental Science and Management	Policy and Administration
Evolutionary Science	Pure Mathematics
Genetics	Psychology
Geology	Sociology
Historical Studies	Soil Science
Human Geography	Specialist Studies in Education
Human Movement and Sports Science	Veterinary Science
Law	Zoology

RESEARCH IMPACT

The University of New England has developed a disaster preparedness model that is transforming how rural Australian communities face extreme weather events. Designed to address the rising psychological and environmental challenges posed by climate change, the program offers a proactive approach to building resilient communities.

The focus of this initiative is shifting from disaster recovery to preparedness. While traditional responses concentrate on managing crises after they occur, this model prioritises equipping communities with the tools they need to anticipate and adapt to natural hazards like drought, bushfires, and floods. By promoting both psychological and physical preparedness, the program fosters community cohesion and strengthens mental health, safeguarding rural populations against future climate threats.

At its core, the framework empowers small rural towns—particularly those with populations under 15,000—to take the lead in their own disaster readiness. Community members are

trained to work together, provide peer support, and cultivate resilience well before a crisis unfolds. This shift toward a preventative mindset ensures that rural areas are not only more self-reliant but also more capable of retaining critical skills and knowledge within the community.

As extreme weather events become more frequent, the mental strain on communities is increasingly significant. Through partnerships with public health networks and disaster response organisations, the project integrates psychological resilience into disaster planning, ensuring that people are emotionally prepared to weather future challenges.

Researchers involved in the project recognise that many existing approaches—developed in urban contexts—are not suitable for rural areas, which often have fewer support services. By tailoring solutions to the realities of regional life, the University of New England is creating long-term benefits for communities that are too often overlooked.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

The University of Southern Queensland became a university in 1992, but has history tracing back to 1969. Today, it has four campuses in South-East Queensland.

In 2017, the University of Southern Queensland won the Green Gown award for its approach to sustainability focusing on renewable energy, waste reduction, water retention, and integration of sustainability into strategic planning.

The University of Southern Queensland's mission is to drive economic and social development through higher education and research excellence.

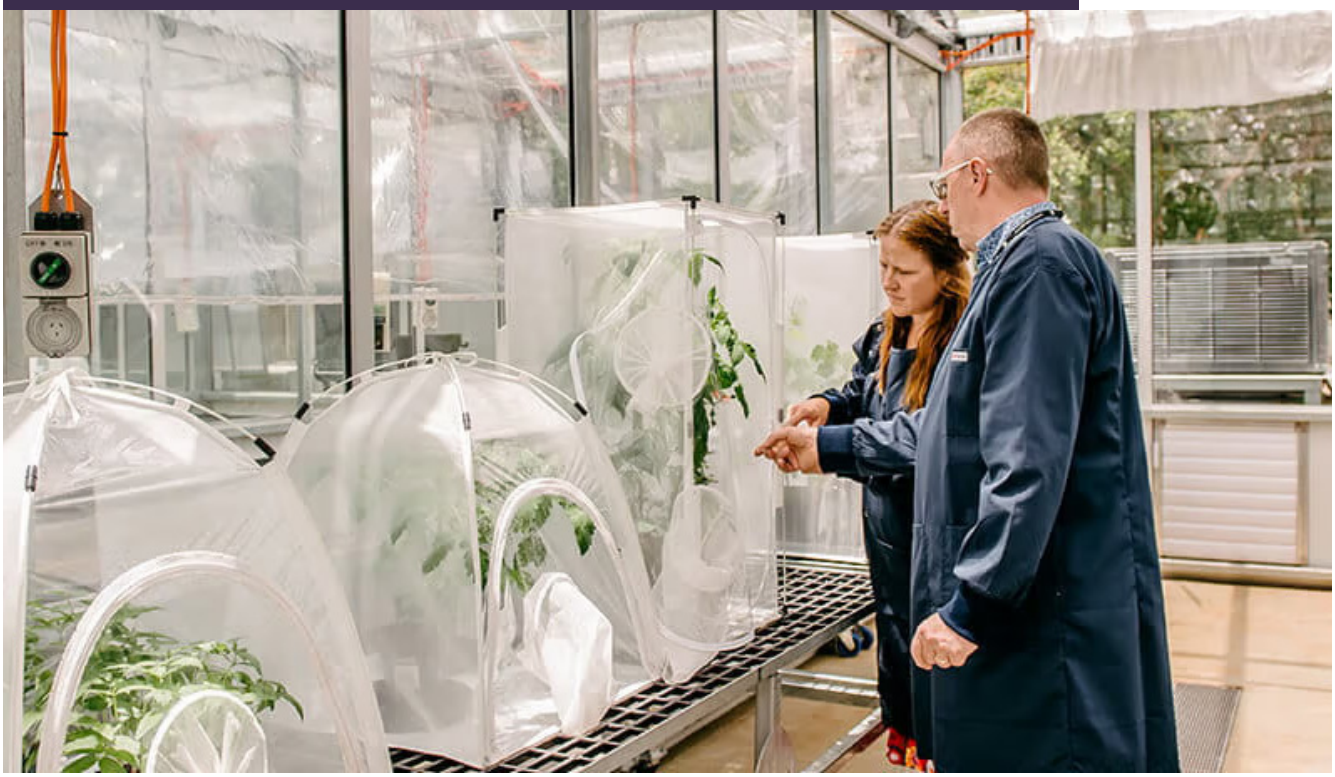
University of Southern Queensland researchers work directly with local communities, industry, and international partners to form strong and enduring research partnerships that deliver tangible benefits and real impact. The University's world-class research institutes, centres and faculties are home to unique state-of-the-art facilities enabling researchers to deliver a broad range of research outcomes across multiple disciplines.

20,000 STUDENTS

120,000+ GRADUATES

1,700+ STAFF

University of Southern Queensland



WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 2 DIGITS

Agricultural & Veterinary Sciences

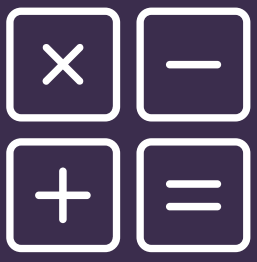
Biological Sciences

Chemical Sciences

Engineering

Environmental Sciences

Information & Computing Sciences



Mathematical Sciences

Medical & Health Sciences

Physical Sciences

Psychology & Cognitive Sciences

RANKINGS DETERMINED BY THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL'S MOST RECENT EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA EVALUATIONS.

WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 4 DIGITS

Agriculture, Land and Farm Management	Macromolecular and Materials Chemistry
Astronomical and Space Science	Manufacturing Engineering
Civil Engineering	Materials Engineering
Clinical Sciences	Mechanical Engineering
Crop and Pasture Production	Microbiology
Environmental Science and Management	Numerical and Computational Mathematics
Historical Studies	Nursing
Human Movement and Sports Science	Nutrition and Dietetics
Information Systems	Psychology
Inorganic Chemistry	Public Health and Health Services

RESEARCH IMPACT

The University of Southern Queensland's involvement in the Australian Cotton Disease Collaboration (ACDC) is revolutionising how the nation's cotton industry tackles the growing threat of crop disease. With cotton diseases already causing significant losses for farmers, and climate change accelerating the spread of pathogens, this initiative represents a game-changing effort to safeguard the industry and secure the future of Australian agriculture.

Cotton diseases currently reduce industry-wide yields by 8 per cent on average, with some growers facing losses as high as 100 per cent. These challenges are not only eroding profits but also forcing some farmers to abandon cotton production altogether. The ACDC will transform disease management through a coordinated, nationwide effort, empowering growers with better tools, innovative solutions, and actionable insights.

By 2028, the initiative aims to reduce the economic impact of cotton diseases to less than 5% of production costs—down from 14%—through the development of smarter farming practices, cutting-edge research, and the deployment of practical solutions. This ambitious goal reflects a bold shift from smaller, localized efforts to a large-scale, collaborative model that promises meaningful, lasting impact.

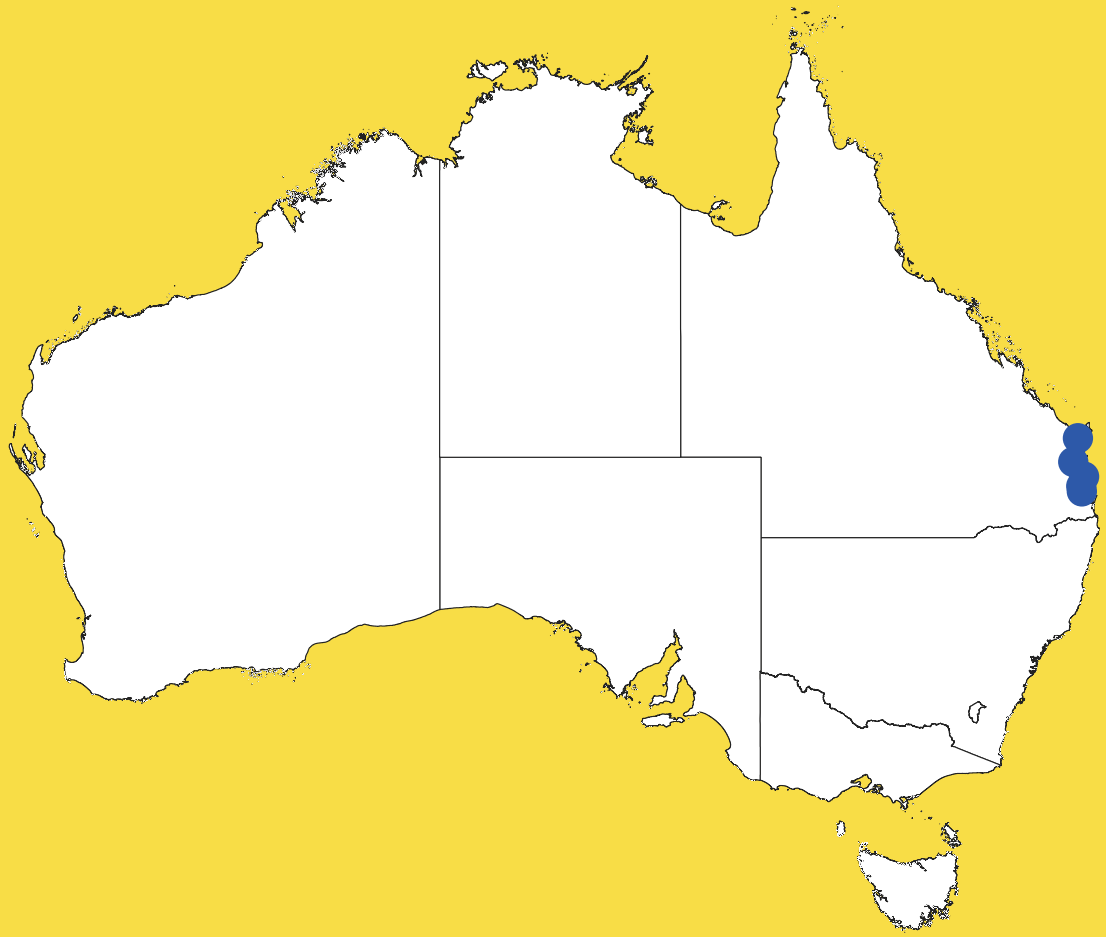
At the heart of the ACDC is a partnership between the Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC), the University of Southern Queensland, and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. UniSQ's expertise in agricultural research, coupled with its location in the heart of a major cotton-growing region, positions it to lead transformative research efforts. The collaboration also connects the nation with global leaders in cotton research, including the USA, India, China, Brazil, and Pakistan.

The initiative expands foundational knowledge of crop diseases, enhance research capacity, and train the next generation of agricultural experts. ACDC also aims to deliver tactical management strategies that will directly benefit growers, helping them adopt sustainable practices to protect yields and maintain profitability in the face of evolving threats.

UNIVERSITY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST

The University of the Sunshine Coast is a young, fresh university driven by an unwavering belief that community and culture is just as important as a world-class education, delivered by world-class educators. The university's first campus, on the Sunshine Coast, opened its doors in 1996.

Today, the University of the Sunshine Coast's award-winning facilities span five campuses across South East Queensland, an area of unique geographical importance. In fact, the university is the world's only university with campuses on three connecting UNESCO biosphere reserves and the World Heritage Listed K'gari.



19,000
STUDENTS

42,000+
GRADUATES

1,200+
STAFF

University of the Sunshine Coast

Spanning multiple disciplines, the University of the Sunshine Coast's research teams pursue and share new knowledge, collective understanding, and bold solutions that bring about real impact and positive change that helps move everyone forward.

Across their campuses, the next generation of researchers are answering some of today's most pressing issues, focused on ensuring healthier people and a healthier planet.

WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 2 DIGITS

Agricultural & Veterinary Sciences

Biological Sciences

Engineering

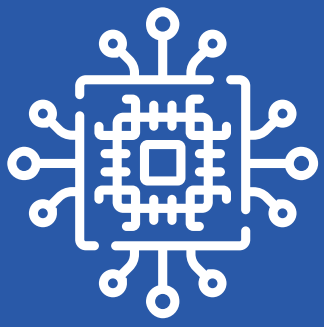
Environmental Sciences

Language, Communication & Culture

Medical & Health Sciences

Psychology & Cognitive Sciences

Studies in Human Society



Technology

RANKINGS DETERMINED BY THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL'S MOST RECENT EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA EVALUATIONS.

WORLD CLASS & ABOVE FIELDS OF RESEARCH 4 DIGITS

- Criminiology
- Ecological Applications
- Ecology
- Environmental Science and Management
- Fisheries Sciences
- Forestry Sciences
- Horticulture Production
- Human Geography
- Human Movement and Sports Science
- Materials Engineering
- Medical Microbiology
- Neurosciences
- Nursing
- Policy and Administration
- Psychology
- Veterinary Sciences
- Zoology

RESEARCH IMPACT

A study has demonstrated the transformative impact of a chlamydia vaccine developed by the University of the Sunshine Coast, offering new hope for the survival of Australia's vulnerable wild koala populations. The vaccine significantly reduces both disease symptoms and deaths, paving the way for healthier populations and reversing declines in areas heavily affected by the disease.

The findings reveal that vaccinated koalas are 65 per cent less likely to die from chlamydia, with the treatment also helping prevent the onset of severe symptoms during breeding years. This breakthrough offers a sustainable alternative to antibiotic treatments, which are often ineffective in preventing reinfection and can disrupt digestion, sometimes leading to starvation.

Chlamydia, a major threat to koalas, can cause infections leading to blindness, infertility, and early death. In South East Queensland and New South Wales, over 50 per cent of wild koalas suff from the disease, putting intense pressure on local populations. This vaccine provides a lifeline by mitigating these health risks and increasing the chances of long-term survival for individual koalas and broader populations.

The vaccine represents a critical tool for reversing the decline of wild koala populations, particularly in high-risk regions. By integrating vaccination with habitat restoration, traffic management, and efforts to control domestic and wild dog attacks, the project highlights a holistic approach to koala conservation.

The study's results offer a compelling vision for the future: with continued commitment and strategic conservation efforts, the recovery of Australia's iconic wildlife is possible. The University of the Sunshine Coast's work is now set to go beyond research, with a $750,000 grant from the Federal Government's Saving Koalas Fund supporting the development of a veterinary-approved version of the vaccine, bringing national rollout within reach.

This breakthrough not only demonstrates leadership in wildlife conservation but also showcases the impact of innovative science in safeguarding Australia's biodiversity.

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