

Mr Richard Hyett
Senior Adviser to the Minister for Agriculture
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT

Developing Northern Australia

3 December 2015

Dear Mr Hyett,

We write on the advice of the Minister the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP and his letter of the 20th August 2015 in response to ours of 31st July 2015 (attached). The subject of that correspondence was a suggestion from our think-tank group related to the first of the five priority areas for northern development, food and agriculture. In particular it concerned the proposed Cooperative Research Centre for Developing the North, and for that reason we also copy this letter to Mr David Crombie.

Our objective was to reduce unnecessary repetition of past work conducted by a range of institutions, including the older universities and in particular the CSIRO, old NTA and Queensland and WA departments and their research stations. This may best be effected by a comprehensive review of the past work of such research centres as; Beatrice Hills, Tortilla Flats, Katherine Research Station, Douglas-Daly Experiment Station, Kimberley Research Station, Victoria River Research Station, Desert Sands Research Station, Berrimah Research Centre, Coastal Plains Research Station, Rockhampton Research Centre, Lansdown Research Station, Mareeba Research Station, Walkamin Research Station and others.

We believe that this work from the 1950s through the 1970s would be one source of sound planning for the CRC. While our group has some of this knowledge, it may be best to access such information before the CRC is active. We are not seeking to participate in the CRC per se, and so suggest that it may be more productive to meet to discuss this further. We would be pleased to meet with your office in Canberra or Melbourne early in 2016.

Yours sincerely



Prof. Lindsay Falvey FTSE

[<lindsay.falvey@gmail.com>](mailto:lindsay.falvey@gmail.com)

Signed on behalf of:

Snow Barlow, Janet Beard, Lindsay Falvey, Malcolm Hickey, Frank Larkins, Robert White & Nigel Wood

cc. Mr David Crombie AM

Attached: Letter to Minister Joyce

Hon Barnaby Joyce MP
Minister for Agriculture
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT

Developing Northern Australia

31 July 2015

Dear Minister Joyce,

We send this letter after some deliberation within our think-tank group of retired Professors, Deans, and Senior Managers from the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Science. Our comments relate to the first of the five priority areas for northern development, food and agriculture - and in particular the proposed Cooperative Research Centre for Developing the North. We base our comments on our diverse experience over several decades in food technologies, tropical agriculture and animal production, and senior agricultural administration, including in northern Australia.

We are cognizant of the substantial work that has been conducted over past generations by researchers and others, and our objective is simply to avoid unnecessary repetition of that excellent work conducted by a range of institutions, including the older universities and in particular the CSIRO, old NTA and Queensland and WA departments and their research stations.

We propose that a comprehensive review of past research be conducted prior to formation of the CRC. This would include the work of such research centres as; Beatrice Hills, Tortilla Flats, Katherine Research Station, Douglas-Daly Experiment Station, Kimberley Research Station, Victoria River Research Station, Desert Sands Research Station, Berrimah Research Centre, Coastal Plains Research Station, Rockhampton Research Centre, Lansdown Research Station, Mareeba Research Station, Walkamin Research Station and others.

From the 1950s through the 1970s, sound work and extensive field experience has been generated, much of which is worthy of consolidation in a platform for planning future research in an efficient manner. Within our group we have some of this knowledge, probably most beneficially used to access old information and contacts for what should be an inexpensive initial activity that would complement inputs by groups seeking to form a CRC. We are not seeking to be part of the CRC.

We would welcome the opportunity of discussing this further with you or your office.

Yours sincerely



Prof. Lindsay Falvey FTSE
<lindsay.falvey@gmail.com>

Signed on behalf of: Snow Barlow, Janet Beard, Lindsay Falvey, Malcolm Hickey, Robert White and Nigel Wood