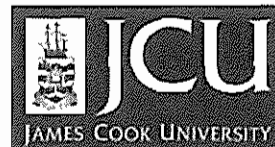

STATEMENT OF INTENT

for the establishment of an

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR
TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**



Queensland Government
Department of *Primary Industries and Fisheries*



STATEMENT OF INTENT

Dated the 24th day of June 2008

between:

The STATE OF QUEENSLAND through the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (ABN 78 342 684 030) of 80 Ann Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4000

("DPI&F")

and

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY (ABN 46 253 211 955) of Angus Smith Drive, Townsville, Queensland 4811

("JCU")

Background

1. DPI&F is currently developing strategies to enhance the positioning of its research, development and extension (RD&E) and other service delivery to the Queensland food and agri-business sector for the future. A key element of this fresh approach lies in capitalising on opportunities to engage in strategic collaboration with other research organisations.
2. DPI&F is moving to reconfigure its regionally based science infrastructure around a small number of strategically located centres of research and development ("R&D") excellence that effectively address regional needs, in particular the threats and opportunities facing Queensland agri-business in the State's tropical north. Collaboration with universities and other R&D providers is being explored in this process, taking a strategic approach in developing collaborative R&D centres.
3. JCU is seeking to strengthen and focus its research activity by coordination and consolidation of R&D through collaboration with complementary providers. Concurrently, JCU is proactively engaging the regional community with the aim of driving business innovation and economic development. An important focus of this approach will be regional capacity building in areas of business demand.

Statement of Intent

4. DPI&F and JCU ("the Parties") intend to develop a significant strategic alliance in R&D, the Australian Institute for Tropical Agricultural Sciences ("the Institute") through co-investment in key areas of mutual capability

and capacity focussing initially on potential synergies in tropical aquaculture and fisheries R&D, biosecurity science, and R&D focussed on tropical beef and crop production.

5. The Institute will provide a more effective critical mass of expertise to deliver innovation that adds value to the rate of increase in productivity and business competitiveness for agri-businesses and supports the development of new bio-industries, particularly in northern Queensland.

Objectives

6. The Parties agree that the Institute will have the following objectives:
 - deliver high quality science outputs relevant to food and agri-business;
 - achieve research outcomes that enhance innovation in the food and agri-business sector in Queensland;
 - harness additional scientific input and leadership;
 - improve capacity to attract and retain outstanding scientific staff;
 - foster intellectual and practical collaboration between scientists to maximise the integration of research disciplines in solving multi-disciplinary research problems;
 - provide high quality training in tropical agricultural, veterinary and marine science and related disciplines for people working in and servicing agri-food and fibre industries; and
 - realise economies of scale in costly research infrastructure investments.

Planned Action

7. The Parties intend to:
 - formalise the Institute as a strategic partnership to coordinate and strengthen research activity directed at the tropical food and agri-business sector;
 - co-invest in R&D which will underpin the development and growth of agri-food and fibre industries in northern Queensland;
 - establish an overarching governance framework to underpin the work of the Institute which recognises the interests of the Parties;
 - undertake further evaluation of several key business areas to refine the assessment and feasibility of planned collaboration;
 - examine opportunities for co-location and/or integration of scientific staff from both organisations to enhance collaborative effort in addressing multi-disciplinary research problems;

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- jointly assess requirements for future investments in research infrastructure and to collaborate in developing research facilities which are mutually beneficial in meeting the R&D needs of the agri-food and fibre industries of northern Queensland; and
 - investigate options linked to the Institute which will foster and support greater innovation by agri-businesses engaged in tropical agri-food and fibre industries to broaden the application of research to achieve industry outcomes.
8. The Parties have identified several areas for initial consideration through the Institute, including, but not limited to:
- aquaculture;
 - biosecurity scientific services;
 - fisheries and fishing;
 - tropical agricultural science including horticulture and forestry; and
 - extensive beef production.

Coordination

9. Coordination and management of activities and engagement of the Parties will be provided as follows:
- for DPI&F, through the Executive Director, Innovation and Biosecurity Investment; and
 - for JCU, through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation).

Previous Understanding

10. A Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Parties in December 2003 proposing to explore opportunities for collaboration in research activities and teaching and training programs in areas of mutual interest has now lapsed.

Status of this Statement of Intent

11. The Parties do not intend that this Statement of Intent will be in any way binding. This Statement of Intent serves as a record of the separate intentions of the Parties and to signal their joint commitment to the establishment of the Institute.
12. This Statement of Intent may form the basis for the preparation of formal contracts between the Parties in relation to the Institute.

However the Parties do not intend to enter into any legal relationship unless and until such formal contracts are executed.

Term and Termination

13. Unless otherwise agreed between the Parties, this Statement of Intent will survive for a period of one year from its date of execution by the Parties.
14. This Statement of Intent may be terminated at any time by either Party upon written notice to the other.

EXECUTED BY THE PARTIES

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland through the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries:

Signed for and on behalf of James Cook University:

Tim Mulherin

The Honourable Tim Mulherin MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries

Sandra Harding

Professor Sandra Harding
Vice-Chancellor and President

in the presence of Rob Setter

in the presence of ROB SETTER

Witness

[Signature]

Witness

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