



**Cooperative
Research
Australia**

CRA's submission to “Measuring What Matters – second consultation process”

May 2023

Cooperative Research Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we operate, the Ngunnawal people. We also acknowledge the traditional custodians of the various lands across Australia upon which our members operate.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to our lands and waters.

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Executive Summary

Cooperative Research Australia (CRA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the Treasury's consultation on "Measuring what matters — second consultation process".

CRA is the voice of industry-research collaboration and advocates for the translation of research into commercial, economic, social, and environmental outcomes that benefit all Australians. Our members are the lynchpin in the Australian innovation system and are focused on creating new products, services, industries, and value in our economy. CRA represents Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) and their spinoff/successor entities, CRC – Projects grant participants, 30 universities and research institutions, as well as other industry-research collaboration entities, associated businesses, alumni and professionals.

Our contribution focuses on the importance of industry-research collaboration as a key factor in achieving the policy themes of a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable Australia. As well as to provide insights and data on the role and impact of collaborative research in promoting economic, social, and environmental outcomes to achieve economic prosperity.

The highlights of CRA recommendations are:

- The indicators proposed by CRA include measuring R&D collaboration, the high-skilled workforce, and innovation outcomes to understand how well the workforce is equipped to support innovation and industry-led research.
- These indicators align with policy themes on prosperity, inclusivity, and sustainability by promoting a growing, productive, and resilient economy.
- Policies that address these key principles should prioritize investment in innovation, industry-led research, and skill development while promoting sustainable resource use and social and economic accessibility.

Cooperative Research Australia is committed to working collaboratively with the Australian Government in releasing a new standalone Measuring What Matters Statement in 2023, the first national framework on well-being that will help assess our country's progress and guide efforts to create more opportunities for more Australians. We are open to facilitating a platform for further consultation and/or clarification on any of the recommendations.

Top issues to measure wellbeing for all Australians relative to innovation.

Cooperative Research Australia represents a community dedicated to solving the problems of the future, ensuring that Australia becomes a prosperous, sustainable, resilient, and innovative country.

Due to the current context of inflation and increasing cost-of-living pressure, Australia's competitiveness, productivity, and transformation to a complex economy is high stake.

To complement traditional economic indicators, we propose including indicators of innovation such as:

- Public and Private Sector R&D: Industry-research collaboration measures of the extent of collaboration between industry and publicly funded research organizations, together with the commercial, economic, social and environmental impacts of that.
- Measuring the highest-skilled workforce, including percentage of PhD graduates, percentage employed in the private sector, and diversity across all measures.
- Innovation outcomes: measures the economic and social impact of research and development activities, including patents, commercialization of research outputs, and improvements in productivity.

These indicators are critical as they provide a comprehensive picture of the progress towards a sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive country.

Measuring the extent of collaboration between industry and research organizations, skills development, and innovation outcomes enables us to understand how well the workforce is equipped to support innovation and industry-led research, essential for economic growth and job creation.

Alignment with the Policy themes

We believe that the group that we represent will have a significant contribution to the following policy themes and draft descriptions.

Prosperous	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A growing, productive and resilient economy• An economy that provides opportunities for all Australians.• An economy that is more resilient and less vulnerable to shocks.• People are financially secure.	The indicators proposed by CRA directly contribute to creating a growing, productive, and resilient economy. The indicators of R&D, skills development, and innovation outcomes promote economic growth, job creation, and the development of a skilled workforce, which in turn

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have access to education, knowledge and training so they have the skills to fully participate in society and the economy throughout their life. • People have access to necessary services and amenities. • A sustainable budget that can continue to deliver the services Australians rely on and can buffer the economy against future shocks. • A dynamic economy, which encourages and offers opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship. • An economy that seizes the opportunities from the net zero transition and digitisation. 	provides opportunities for all Australians to participate in society and the economy.
Inclusive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A society that shares opportunities and enables people to fully participate • A society that allows all people to afford life's essentials. • A society that provides people access to secure, well-paying jobs. • A society that supports social and economic accessibility and intergenerational mobility. • Gender equality, including at work and in the community. • A society that supports diversity and equity. • Leadership in government and business that is representative of our diverse society. 	<p>The indicators proposed by CRA align to the extent to which industry-led research and development activities contribute to the creation of secure, well-paying jobs and provide access to necessary services and amenities, particularly considering the element of measuring diversity in this workforce and its impacts.</p> <p>These indicators also align with promoting diversity and equity, as industry collaboration and skills development can create opportunities for all Australians to participate and share in the benefits of economic growth, while promoting gender equality through equal access to education and training, and promoting leadership in government and business that is representative of our diverse society.</p>

How can policies best address key principles of a prosperous, sustainable and inclusive future?

Foster industry collaboration and innovation

Policies should encourage collaboration between industry and research organizations and invest in research and development activities that have a positive economic and social

impact. This will help create a productive and resilient economy that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship.

Support skills development

Policies should prioritize access to education, knowledge, and training for all Australians, to equip the workforce with the skills and knowledge necessary to support innovation and industry-led research. This will help people access secure, well-paying jobs and fully participate in society and the economy throughout their life.

Encourage inclusivity

Policies should promote inclusivity by creating a society that shares opportunities, supports social and economic accessibility and intergenerational mobility, and values diversity and equity. This will help create a more resilient economy that provides opportunities for all Australians and supports gender equality, including at work and in the community.