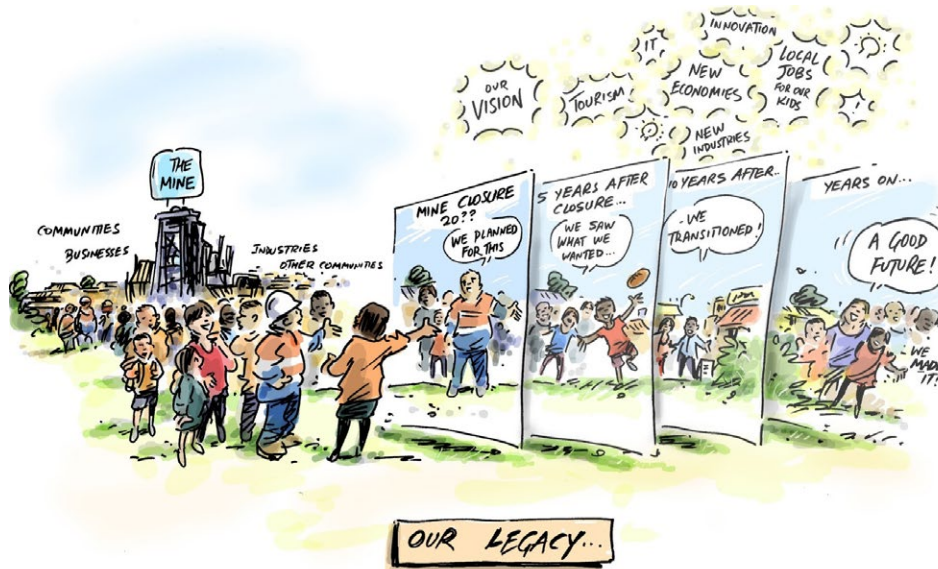


Defining success for CRC TiME: A collaborative governance approach for impact and evaluation



CRC TiME has developed an Impact Framework that provides clarity to its funding partners on how its research delivers value across the industry and aligns with partners' objectives. This project also developed a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Framework that provides the basis of a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan that will be used to track the CRC's progress against its objectives.

KEY FINDINGS

- CRC TiME Impact needs to be based around theories of change that are developed across CRC TiME's four program areas at the initiative or project level
- Collaborative processes are essential to deliver on outcomes — stakeholders attached high importance to CRC TiME supporting various kinds of collaborative processes
- MERI Framework is required to measure collaborative processes
- The Regional Planning Theory of Change case study showed:
 - Planning is difficult but not impossible — the policy and regulatory context makes it difficult to develop planning methods and techniques that align regional planning and mine closure planning
 - Multiple outputs and multiple stakeholders and perspectives must work together synergistically to deliver impact – they are more than the sum of their parts

THE CHALLENGE

During its formation, CRC TiME consulted extensively with stakeholders and articulated high-level outcomes and economic benefits in mine closure and regional development. CRC TiME established four program areas to deliver on its vision of 'Closure as a valued cornerstone for post-mine economies and the mining industry, building enduring benefit for all Australians' — Regional Economic Development; Risk, Evaluation and Planning; Operational Solutions; Data Integration, Forecasting and Scale. However, a pathway to impact ('Theory of Change') for these programs was still required; that is, a plan describing how the CRC would design research activities and other major actions to achieve desired outcomes. The organisation also needed to monitor and evaluate progress over time.

THE OPPORTUNITY

This project developed a high-level impact pathway for its Regional Economic Development program and a framework to monitor, evaluate and improve, to help CRC TiME navigate the pathway to impact. CRC TiME accessed external expertise through CSIRO and investigated collaborative governance. Participatory workshops with strategic stakeholders helped create a shared understanding of how to develop a Theory of Change and apply collaborative governance principles post mining.

RESEARCH

Step 1. Review: Reviewed CRC TiME's proposed pathway to impact.

Step 2. Workshops: Held workshops with CRC TiME stakeholders to:

- understand the context, barriers and opportunities
- explore aspects of the theory of change for regional economic development
- engage around a collaborative governance-based MERI framework.

Step 3. Case studies or application on the ground:

A Theory of Change was developed for the Regional Economic Development program (Program 1).

OUTCOMES

The research demonstrated how to formulate and adapt Theories of Change for a cooperative research program. The case study Theory of Change for the Regional Economic Development program was used as a model to develop theories of change for the research areas.

The MERI framework was proposed to be used in the development of a MERI plan by a third party. This plan would describe what, when and how measurements will be made and consider linkages to evaluation based on theories of collaborative governance.

NEXT STEPS

CRC TiME will now work with research program leaders and project managers to develop Theories of Change at the project level. This will enhance the development of project logic, and assist projects in clarifying and targeting adoption activities towards their path to impact.

A third party will be contracted to develop the monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improving plan for CRC TiME. The plan will be implemented over CRC TiME's 10-year life and be embedded across programs, projects, hubs and stakeholders.

In addition to the MERI Plan, additional evaluation projects will be proposed through the project pipeline supported by partner cash contributions. Such projects include collaborative governance, economic benefits and State of the Industry reporting.



PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

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PROJECT PARTNERS

CSIRO

PROJECT REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS

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ABOUT US

The Cooperative Research Centre for Transformations in Mining Economies (CRC TiME) brings together over 70 leading mining and mining service companies, regional development organisations, State and Commonwealth governments, research partners, community and indigenous groups. Our unique coalition brings scale and coordinated investment into innovative research that addresses the complex challenges underpinning mine closure and relinquishment.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians across all the lands on which we live and work, and we pay our respects to Elders both past and present.