PhD.I Higher Degree Research capturing Impact and Engagement

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Australian Research Council Excellence in Research evaluation now includes Impact and Engagement measures.

Research Impact is the demonstrable contribution that research makes to the economy, society, culture, national security, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life, beyond contributions to academia. (ARC, Research Impact Principles and Framework). This includes reach and significance.

Engagement describes the interaction between researchers and research organisations and their larger communities/industries for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge, understanding and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. (ATSE Research Engagement for Australia, March 2015, p. 7)

PHD.I INNOVATION PROJECT BASED ON THE CAPACITY OF SELF AND OTHERS
• Critical thinking
• Research methods
• Systems thinking
• Complexity
• Developmental evaluation

INNOVATION PORTFOLIO DESIGN
Innovation conception & development history
Innovation, Context, Stakeholders, Users
Beneficiaries, Implementation, Dissemination, and Evaluations
Reflections & Anticipations
Reflections, Description, Quality criteria, Learning, Innovation, Significance, Candidate, Project, Profession or industry, Practice/policy, Society, and Future implications and management
Impact and change
Assumptions and quality, Methods, Evidence – what, how and where from, Empirical based impact, Actual, Unintended, and Degree of i.e. reach and significance

PhD.I CASE STUDY: INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MODEL TO IMPROVE FERAL PIG MANAGEMENT
FERAL PIGS CAUSE
• Damage to agriculture
• Disease spread
• Damage to biodiversity

A WICKED PROBLEM involving Innovation Engagement & Impact
• Feral pig ecology
• Impact on production, the environment and biosecurity threat. Community attitude
• Participation in coordinated control
• Implementing control methods correctly
• Sustaining motivation

Innovation
A community- engagement model to achieve coordinated control. A pig ecology and human dimension research problem.

ENGAGEMENT Contracts for research, consulting or repeat business with industry: Landcare Services groups; Farmers Associations; Energy companies; Torres Strait Regional Authority.
Consultations with CSIRO, NP NRM groups.
Consultation with government. WA Biosecurity (DAFWA); Landcare service group; CSIRO.
Public and practitioner lectures, seminars Universities; Energy companies; schools; NSW Government; International Wild Pig Conference 2016 and 2018, Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference 2017

IMPACT Who or what has benefited: 52 land managers directly involved in the study.
National Parks; Mining companies.
Documentary produced; Media reporting; News television national and regional, national and state radio broadcast interviews; Newspaper articles.

The nature and type of impact - social, economic, environmental or cultural impact
New shared ownership perspective of the feral pig problem and promotion of collective action approach. 70% targeted reduction in numbers to dramatically reduce feral pigs production loses.

Conclusion The PhD.I program scaffolds the reporting of doctoral research to an Innovation portfolio while effectively providing skills for identifying and documenting research Engagement and Impact.

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Sponsors:
Queensland Murray-Darling Committee
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