

**SUMMARY OF CHAT FROM CRC for POLLINATION SECURITY ONLINE FORUM**  
**29 JULY 2021**

**1. FORUM CHAT FROM MAIN ROOM**

**Questions/responses**

- [crcbid@whenbeefoundation.org.au](mailto:crcbid@whenbeefoundation.org.au) if you want to direct questions outside of this Forum
- Will these slides be made available? */Happy to make these available.*
- What commitment is required for interested participants for Stage 1./ *We will cover this as we proceed*
- Do bid outs come every year?/ *Yes bids come out each year CRC bids do come out each year./ It is a Program that the Federal Government decide whether to support each year.*
- Is CRC Pollination Security complementary, competitive or a continuation of CRCHBP?
- Can money be added and matched after the initial application- like 2-3 years down the track? */It can be added but I don't think it can be matched*
- Who decides project teams and where money gets spent?
- How does the industry levy money and direct contribution from individual companies work WRT R&D Tax incentive- are producer paid levies also eligible for R&D rebates? */Each project is linked to Project Parties and the funding contribution*
- How about taxonomy as an education gap (also is under the diversity and conservation) - if we don't know the taxonomic identity of a species, or it's not described, this seriously constrains the ability to conserve it or understand the diversity of crop pollinators/ *My reading would be that it comes under the identity and conservation status Kit.*
- It might be nice to include pollinator management for protected cropping systems which present unique challenges for pollinators/ *Yes we had a debate which program to include this in As you see in Program 3 at present*
- How will best practice management be socialised to the people who can benefit from that?

**Break**

- Is there a way to align interests between industry and researchers? To figure out who is who....
- My question too - how can we as researchers connect up with industry? *Good questions, and this is part of the process of discussions that work towards the development of a CRC - priorities, interests, capacity (within industry and research)*
- Is there a standard format?
- I think not only the interests, but indeed the skill set of various researchers and industry partners. The good thing about setting up a CRC is that collectively we will have skills to address most, if not all the relevant questions/opportunities
- Pollination efficiency / pollen delivery could seek to understand the plant species and crop varieties found in bee pollen loads. The pollen genotype is critical for pollination of self-sterile varieties, e.g. in almond and macadamia.

**Contact details for people who were happy to share their contacts**

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## **2. FORUM CHAT FROM INDUSTRY BREAKOUT ROOM**

### **Expectations and Aspirations of a CRC for Pollination Security**

- First the identification of industry problems
- Understanding all the options available to industry
- Maximising the collaboration between industries
- Review past work. Is it still applicable?
- Important to have a commercial aspect to it
- A sort of register identifying what volumes of which pollinators are available for the market at given times of the year.
- A holistic approach bringing in all vectors i.e. insects and plants
- Collaboration between funding sources to best leverage outcomes
- A deeper understanding of the plant types x essential pollinators
- Efficient extension to make sure there's uptake of best practice and demonstrating why industry should take up different activities
- Understanding the detail behind the scope
- the pulling together of the various groups who need pollination to identify the collective need for honeybees in particular so we can identify, plan and understand demand for bees
- To ensure we have a sustainable system in place to have ongoing industry focus on research and development in pollination services for agriculture.
- Driving pollination efficiency, understand the pollination requirements of industries
- Excellent extension
- Develop Best practices for managing pollinators in the hort /agriculture environment
- As a co-operative agriculture bank we are generally interested to contribute to sustainable development for our clients and f&a industry at large. We also see an important role to contribute to extension
- Identify partners/growers that would be a good fit for ongoing field testing for new pollination technology.
- for the CRC to deliver transformational change to unlock Pollination as the important lever or productivity that it is it does require adequate time to plan and ensure we have the strategic framework right to guide the research undertaken

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- Development of best management practices for protected cropping
- low-cost agricultural chemicals that have no impact on Bees/pollinators?
- the development of practices specific to participating industries in order to improve pollination but also maintain good standards of pollinators
- Something beyond research, it would be helpful to show how the CRC bid will bring in new money for R&D and isn't just moving existing R&D money around ***Yes, an injection of (proposed) \$25million from the CRC fund would be NEW money for research.***

**Questions/responses**

- Is pesticide poisoning and novel technology to mitigate it within the scope of the bid? ***Yes, pesticides and hazards to pollinators is firmly in the program.***
- How do we show the benefit of creating good pollinator environments for industries that don't have a direct financial benefit from pollination?
- Understanding of scale? Liz said CRCHBR was ~\$12M and was the smallest of CRC, what are we aiming for here in this bid? ***Scale of bid being discussed at present is \$25 million.***
- Can you give us a sense of the time needed to gain (company/Board) support?
- What is the practical level of commitment needed by end of August? ***happy to talk about funding and timelines.***
- how many bids from 1 company? just one? multiple? *Bid referred to is the bid for the CRC, not bid by companies to participate (ie companies could participate across multiple program/project areas)*
- How difficult would it be for a business that is from the US to get involved? I'd assume we'd need an Australian partner. *Hi Yes, an Australian partner would be important. None of the CRC federal funds can be used overseas.*

**Concerns**

- I am concerned about time frame and also ability to pull together commitments of commercial enterprises to be able to find the funds in a short time
- Need to go away and consult as hard to make reasoned decision. No I in team.
- Need broader engagement within my own organisation to comment further. First time seeing some of this. Time frames could be tight...
  - ~~/if it helps with timelines and decisions, the EOI stage is for indicative funding. It's not a firm commitment. (Erratum NOTE, this information appearing in the chat was inaccurate and has been amended following the Forum. There is no longer an EOI phase in the CRC bid process as was previously the case. We apologise for this being communicated in error. FC on behalf of the working group).~~
  - ~~/what's been put up is a 'best case' at this time. We do have time - the initial EOI is short, but we have until much later in the year to add detail. Further, we have spent a good deal of time prior in scoping ideas from industry partners. (Erratum NOTE, this information has been amended following the Forum as it is inaccurate. There is no longer an EOI phase in the current CRC application process as was previously the case. We apologise for this being communicated in error. FC on behalf of the working group). What would be very helpful now would be detailed contribution of ideas and issues - in email if not possible here - and to engage in that conversation.~~

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- Business will need to justify the spend to owners/*Boards which requires good detail to make decisions on whether to invest./ Great concept and fully supportive but we do need good strong information to support*

**GAPS/opportunities**

- Hard to identify gaps without deeper understanding of the scope...
- Strong collaboration and buy in from key pollination dependent industries. As a honey company it is exciting to be able to work collaboratively in issues that impact all our futures
- A best practice manual for pollination services to include the use of insecticides, management of hives, apiarists and farmer expectations.
- pollination is not just pollinators but also is about weather / environmental conditions which can drive poor produce quality (not just from poor pollinator activity but also influencing pollen germinability, stigma viability/receptivity.....). Would there be scope for it?
- After all great work has been done, the impact will stand or fall with good extension
- Looking at foraging behaviour in relation to distances, cross pollination and disease management i.e. how far and where do bees (and others) actually go?
- Disease transmission by pollen; identifying the risks and building awareness and management
- A focus on improving extension would be really important. How do we translate all of the good research to uptake and implementation on farm. How do we show farmers that it's in their interest
- to make their farms more pollinator friendly. This would especially be the case for industries that don't have a direct investment in pollination
- Greater knowledge amongst Chemical cos of the broad range of pollinators....not just bees, and to ensure label instructions are catering for behaviour if all pollinators x Crop. APVMA needs to be a key stakeholder in this process.
- Extension has really been highlighted here and would be good to have its own section
- The opportunity is to do complementary and not competitive or repetitive R&D. The gaps can be identified by reviewing all the R&D being conducted currently and consult with 'industry' to find the gaps./ ***yes, understanding the ongoing research is very important. We are (many of us) engaged in the AgriFutures review of this area (conducted by PHA). It's a very timely and important scoping study and the CRC team have been involved in that conversation /***Thanks, that's good to know.

**Comments**

- (Poll) was very binary - Yes/No ... hard to vote otherwise

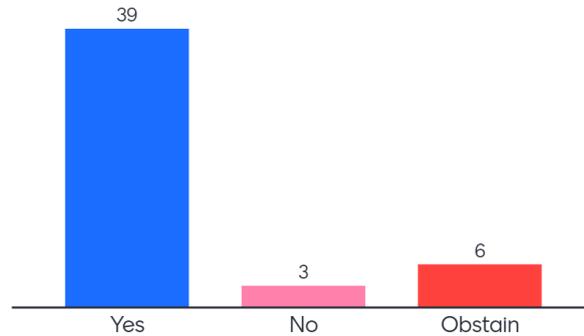
Poll Results from 61 people in the room

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Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code 9702 3236

Can the current /proposed scope cater for your expectations?

Mentimeter



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**3. FORUM CHAT FROM RESEARCH ROOM**

**Questions/responses**

- There would be overlap with protecting landscapes for pollinators and floral resources for beekeepers
- pollinator health on farms - could this include knowledge of resource quality provided by the crop? */I was just thinking this too- esp in relationship to care for larval and adult life cycles...*
- another system level issue is that the same strategies we might use to encourage "free" pollination have consequences for pest control (ie restraining pesticides). So this can be a problem (ie risk new pest problems) or good (allow marketing low pesticide produce) or both! *Good question*
- where does honey bee stock of managed bees fit in? */can you elaborate on what you mean by honey bee stock of managed bees?*
- comment of ecosystem services analysis is an important one, because the resource base is increasingly contested to produce bundles of research services, so any consideration of the supply of ecosystem services needs to consider demand for other services. The definition of benefit within a natural capital accounting framework is really important here
- Under the topic of "sustainable management of services" we should definitely be considering the resilience aspects - in the context of climate change and bushfire disruption to floral resource availability...
- Although not the focus there are also beneficial pest management outcomes that should be considered
- bee friendly legume pastures add both Nitrogen and potential carbon to the soil as well, both annual and perennial species are already in commerce across a wide range of soil types and rainfall zones/ *a good point about the benefits of a crop-rotation/managed pasture system approach to agriculture and benefits to soil and pollinators.*
- I think pesticide etc comes under pollinator health
- QC- like auditing systems?
- we know one of the big questions for industry is re Bombus use. A hot potato though! Where does this fit?

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- Lots of scope for R&D on improved husbandry of stingless bees. Good to see that listed here./ *Amegilla as an Aus alternative to Bombus / AgriFutures (ERRATUM NOTE. Should read Hort Innovation) recently invested in Amegilla for greenhouse buzz pollination*
- carbon sequestration is a good addition to the discussion
- other managed taxa
- Can CRC connect with other government funded research or industry programs?
- one thing missing, in terms of possible partners, is pollination benefits to grazing. ie should dairy or MLA invest in pasture legume pollination? */They are being considered, but I'm not sure if they are here today/ Good point - there are opportunities for various pasture, seed and fodder production sectors in this CRC - e.g., dairy, clover and so on.*
- are you suggesting this group needs to go and find a bunch of industry partners in addition to what is on the call (in other room)? */my question too esp if we're not part of an institution (independent researcher)*
- Is the industry forum also recorded?

Great forum! Thanks!!!

Thank you!

Thanks, all!

well done everyone, great initiative

Thanks!

Thanks

Thanks!

Thanks

Excellent!