



For Southern Cross University 2002 was again a year of tremendous change and wonderful achievements. We began the year by completing the reorganisation of administrative and academic units, and finished the year by announcing that we had been one of the country's most successful institutions in the latest round of Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) bids.

Of the 18 successful CRCs it was announced that Southern Cross University was a participant in five. In the most significant of these, the CRC Innovative Grain Foods, Southern Cross is the only university core partner.

The net benefit of participation in the five CRCs will see approximately \$50 million coming in to the University over the next seven years – a remarkable achievement for a small regional university, but one which gives meaning to our claim to conduct targeted, world-class research in key niche areas.

Importantly, participation in the CRCs will involve all three academic divisions and will involve significantly broader participation than has been the case in previous years. The benefits of this research, therefore, will flow throughout the Far North Coast region. As our Mission Statement suggests, our research is regionally valued and internationally significant.

Under our Strategic Directions statement in this report we have now added detail of our new performance reporting framework that was approved by our University Council in May 2002.

This framework identifies the performance indicators by which we will seek to measure progress towards achieving our 10 strategic priorities. Coupled with this, in 2003, we will finalise our planning process by introducing benchmarks to assist in determining when our objectives have been met.

I am confident the organisational and strategic changes undertaken in the past 24 months have already started to bear fruit. Our CRC successes are one measure of this.

Over the next 12 months the University will look to consolidate the progress made in 2002 with a view to becoming the best regional/new generation university in Australia.



Professor John Rickard

Vice-Chancellor