

## Pilot Assessment of research impact: Case study exemplars

**Abstract:** Introduction This presentation will discuss Western Sydney University's participation in the 2017 pilot assessment of engagement and impact conducted by the Australian Research Council. Background As part of the Australian Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA) launched on 7 December 2015, the range of initiatives to support research and encourage innovation and entrepreneurship includes the establishment of Australia's first national assessment of the engagement and impact of university research. To inform the development and implementation of the full engagement and impact assessment in 2018, the Australian Research Council undertook a pilot exercise in the first half of 2017. Discussion Western Sydney University was part of pilot assessment of engagement and impact. For the assessment of research impact, universities were invited to submit eight impact case studies in chosen disciplinary areas, and submissions closed in May 2017. The disciplines chosen for the assessment included: environmental sciences; agricultural and veterinary sciences; engineering; education; studies in creative arts and writing; and language, communication and culture. In addition, universities were invited to submit an interdisciplinary case study and an Indigenous case study. This presentation will provide some exemplars of impact case studies submitted for assessment and the opportunities and challenges associated with the assessment process. Conclusion The 2017 Professional Staff Conference will be a great opportunity to not only discuss the assessment process but showcase some of the impactful research conducted by our academics.

**Target Audience:** Academic & Professional Staff

**Take home message:** The increasing importance of planning for impact at the conceptual stage of a research project and the significance of effective collaboration with research end-users.