Director's Report

Management Committee Meeting

29 September 2020

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1. Summary

Since the last Management Committee, we have had a good level of interest from industry on our co-funded scholarships (e.g. Service Australia, Oracle). There are a few externally funded Chairs and Fellowships in the pipeline (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Institute of Sports and Food Agility CRC).

The Centre has also merged two of its research programs into one. Four Postdoctoral Research Fellows have started in August and another two will commence in November.

A meeting of the Centre's Advisory Board is being planned for November 2020.

2. Centre Profile

Leadership

The Centre previously had 5 Research Programs, each led by one of the Centre's Core Team and a Co-Leader. Since the last Management Committee, the Centre has merged 2 Research Programs – Data Science Models and Methods and Computational Algorithms – into one – Models and Algorithms.

The merging of the two Research Programs arose from Paul Corry stepping aside from the Core Team and as Program Leader of Data Science Models and Methods in August this year. Discussions between the Centre Director and Co-Leaders of both Research Programs also indicated that there are strong overlaps between the two Research Programs.

Paul Corry remains as an Associate Investigator of the Centre and we thank him for his strong contributions to the Centre in its start-up phase.

The current Leaders and Co-Leaders of the Centre's Research Programs are as below:

Research Programs	Current Lead	Co-Lead
Data for Discovery	James McGree	Moe Wynn
Models and Algorithms	Chris Drovandi	Timothy Moroney and Matt Simpson
Data Focused Decision Making	David Lovell	Margot Brereton
Applied Data Science	Richi Nayak	Simon Denman

The Centre's Domain Co-Leaders remain the same and are as below:

Domains	Co-Lead	Co-Lead
Health and Biological Systems	Dale Nyholt	Dimitri Perrin
Environment and Natural Systems	Kate Helmstedt	Jinglan Zhang

Business and Industry Systems	Adam Clements	Ashish Bhaskar
Social Systems	Char-Lee Moyle	Timothy Graham

Appointments

The Centre has appointed 6 Postdoctoral Fellows aligned to 3 of the 4 Research Programs. 4 Postdoctoral Fellows have started in August 2020, with the remaining 2 expected to commence in November 2020.

The Centre is in the process of requesting for one Postdoctoral position to be advertised specifically for the Data-Focused Decision Making Research Program.

Another Postdoctoral Fellow, Lina Xu, from the QUT Business School has also joined the Centre and is working closely with Adam Clements and James McGree on Centre aligned research.

A part-time Digital Communications Coordinator has also been appointed till Jan 2021 to work on the Australian Data Science Network (ADSN) website and organise ADSN related events.

Centre Participants

Since the last Management Committee in March 2020, the Centre has continued to grow its Centre Participants

Participation Type	No of Participants (as of June 2020)	No of Participants (as of September 2020)
Core Team (CIs)	6	5
Research Program and Domain Co-Leaders (CIs)	13	13
Associate Investigators and DataScience@QUT (AIs)	73 (13 previously Associate Investigators now Co-leaders)	85
Centre Affiliate	3	3
Post-Doctoral Fellows	0	6
Students	45	55
Key Partners	8	8
DataScience.Info subscribers	179	208

A breakdown of CIs and AIs by Schools/Faculties are as below:

Areas	No of CIs/AIs
School of Mathematical Sciences	26

School of Computer Science	17
Business School	16
School of Information Systems	11
School of Electrical Engineering and Robotics	9
School of Civil and Environmental Engineering	5
eResearch	2
Law School	2
School of Biomedical Sciences	2
School of Built Environment	2
School of Civil & Environmental Engineering	2
School of Communication	2
School of Public Health and Social Work	2
IHBI	1
QUT Academy of Learning and Teaching	1
School of Biology and Environmental Science	1
School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences	1
School of Mechanical Medical and Process Engineering	1

3. Activities/Events

Since the last Management Committee, the Centre has continued its proposed activities and events.

Data Science in the News

A short video series (or other modes of communications) where Centre Participants have a platform to evidence-based comments on the relationship between data science and what's topical in the news. This is an outreach webinar series to reach out to a wider audience to increase the understanding of how data science can impact our everyday lives.

The Centre continued its partnership with the Queensland Academy of Arts & Sciences to present the 'Data Science in the News' series. We also collaborated with the Carumba Institute on 2 webinars around "What can we learn from George Floyd's death, and what role can data and data science play in this". Recordings of the webinars are accessible via the Centre's website.

Below are the webinars held since the last Management Committee meeting, with another 6 webinars planned fortnightly till November 2020.
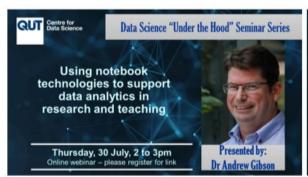
	No of Registrations	No of Live Webinar Participants	No of Views on Recorded Webinar
COVID-19 webinar #1 (27 March)	357	223	153
COVID-19 webinar #2 (14 April)	200	172	111
COVID-19 webinar #3 (24 April)	165	127	284
COVID-19 webinar #4 (8 May)	114	79	104
COVID-19 webinar #5 (22 May)	223	110	56
COVID-19 webinar #6 (5 June)	113	77	24
George Floyd webinar #1 (19 June)	104	76	6
George Floyd webinar #2 (3 July)	60	55	15
George Floyd webinar #3 (17 July)	56	38	14
Sports #1 webinar (31 July)	84	64	46
Sports #2 webinar (21 Aug)	79	63	8
Humanities (4 Sep)	87	60	9

Data Science Under the Hood

The primary aim of this seminar series is to disseminate, to the DataScience@QUT network, fundamental and cutting-edge data science methods that have been developed across several disciplines. This will service to expand the knowledge base of our Centre Participants, to foster interdisciplinary data collaborations by increasing awareness and highlighting challenges. The talks are designed to be accessible to the wider DataScience@QUT community. Assoc Prof Chris Drovandi is the convenor of this series. Recordings of the webinars are accessible via the Centre's website.

Below are the 2 seminars held since the last Management Committee meeting, with another 4 planned monthly till November 2020.

	No of Live Webinar Participants	No of Views on Recorded Webinar
Seminar #1 – 30 April 2020. Associate Professor Richi Nayak on "Factorization based Text Mining Algorithms and Application"	42	7
Seminar #2 – 29 May 2020. Dr Timothy Graham on "Detecting and analysing coordinated inauthentic behaviour on social media"	50	17
Seminar #3 – 26 June 2020. Associate Professor Chris Drovandi on "Parameter estimation using only model simulations"	60	7
Seminar #4 - 30 July 2020. Dr Andrew Gibson on "Using notebook technologies to support data anayltics in research and teaching"	22	9
Seminar #5 - 27 August 2020. Dr Sander Leemans on "Process mining: practice, theory and future"	34	3

Data Science for HDRs Networking

A networking session to build a community of HDRs interested in all things data science. Assoc Prof Richi Nayak is the HDR convenor for the Centre

The Centre held an online networking session on 8 July, 12 noon to 1pm where Student Participants had the opportunity to present their research and themselves to their peers. A total of 8 students shared their research.

Student Participants were also surveyed prior to the session on how the Centre can assist

and provide them with the best experience while they undertake their candidature. Some of the feedback included:

- Learning about other people's research is a great way to open horizons
- Learning about new methods in data science

Data Science @ Work

The Data Science @ Work series is an industry focused session with examples of how data science have been used and implemented successfully or to show the value of data science at work. The Centre plans to start this series soon.

4. Research Initiatives

The Centre ongoing research initiatives include:

- **Co-funded scholarships** – to grow the capacity of new HDR scholarships in addition to the usual QUT annual scholarship rounds.

- **HDR scholarship top-ups**

- **Distinguished Visitors Program** – invites renowned academics, scholars and other eminent individuals to exchange ideas, engage in collaboration and professional development, and contribute to a vibrant and engaged data science community at QUT.

- **Collaborative Workshops Program** – invites proposals for collaborative research workshops between Centre participants, researchers and industry in the area of data science.

- **Australia Data Science Network** - to connect the concentrations of expertise in data science across Australia, in order to improve communication, encourage collaboration, expand opportunities, and promote our individual and collective capabilities.

Co-Funded Scholarships

The Centre is committed to expanding the capacity of new HDR scholarships in the Data Science community at QUT. As such, we are proposing up to 28 co-funded scholarships (funding available up to 2024 only).

Aims

To grow the capacity of new HDR scholarships *in addition* to the usual QUT annual scholarship rounds, or schemes where scholarships are well provided for (e.g. Australian Government Research Training Program, QUT Postgraduate Research Award).

To encourage research collaboration across at least two research groups within QUT.

To grow collaborative projects and partnerships between QUT and organisations outside of universities to solve challenging societal issues.

To leverage investment from industry and other research end-users.

What

Co-funded scholarships of up to $10,000 per year for 3 years. Funding is available up till 2024 only.

Available co-funded scholarships include:

- *Industry/End-User* co-funded scholarships where the research students will work with industry and end-users, and where the remaining scholarship funding required is funded by industry and other end-user organisations.

- *Data Science @ QUT Networks* co-funded scholarships where research students will ideally work across at least two research groups within QUT. The remaining scholarship funding is obtained by other sources of funding that are not the usual QUT annual scholarship rounds, or schemes where scholarships are well provided for.

- *Data Science Domains* co-funded scholarships where research students will work predominantly within a Centre domain across at least two research groups within QUT. Centre domains provide an applied focus and brings together multiple concentrations of research expertise and grouping to focus on a domain area.

With international PhD scholarships and international school fees, there is no blanket international fee scholarships, and will depend on each partner and circumstances managed through the partners agreement. It is expected that the external party will cover the students' health insurance.

Currently, Centre Participants are in various stages of negotiating co-funded scholarships with industry partners and other sources of funding. These are as below:

Centre Participants / Supervisors	Details of other Co-funding	Expected Scholarship Start Date	Expected No of Scholarships
Kerrie Mengersen (as a placeholder)	Services Australia. Agreement is currently with legals @ Services Australia. Negotiated by Sue Sweet. Supervisors to be indentified. x4 projects have been identified.	Oct/Nov 2020	4
Paul Wu?	Australia Institute of Sport? x3?		3
Kerrie Mengersen (as a placeholder)	Australian Bureau of Statistics? x4?		4
Kerrie Mengersen	Children's Hospital Queensland (CHQ)? x1?		1
Lidia Morawski?	Byrce?		1
Connie Susilawati (QUT Business School)	Phase 3 Queen's Wharf Brisbane Project ($45,000) + CDS ($30,000) + QUT Business School ($15,000)	Feb/Mar 2021	1

Darren Wraith (School of Public Health)	Phase 3 Queen's Wharf Brisbane Project ($60,000) + CDS ($30,000)	Feb/Mar 2021	1
John Scott (School of Justice)	Phase 3 Queen's Wharf Brisbane Project ($55,000) + CDS ($30,000) + QUT Business School ($5,000)	Feb/Mar 2021	1
James McGree, Paul Corry, Ashish Bhaskar	Phase 3 Queen's Wharf Brisbane Project ($60,000) + CDS ($30,000)	Feb/Mar 2021	1
Char-lee Moyle (QUT Business School)	Phase 3 Queen's Wharf Brisbane Project ($30,000) + CDS ($30,000) + QUT Business School ($30,000)	Feb/Mar 2021	1
Amanda Beatson (QUT Business School)	Phase 3 Queen's Wharf Brisbane Project ($55,000) + CDS ($30,000) + QUT Business School ($5,000)	Feb/Mar 2021	1
Richi Nayak	Oracle x1	Feb/Mar 2021	1
			20

PhD Top-Up Scholarships

The Centre will be offering up to 5 PhD top-up scholarships as part of the QUT 2021 scholarship round. Last year, this was open to SEF only. This year, as we are a university wide Centre, we would like to make this available across all faculties - a university wide process that hasn't been done before, so hopefully what we proposed to the faculties will work.

How will applications be assessed?

- Applications will be assessed by the CDS Core Team and/or Co-Leaders of Research Programs and Domains
- Assessors will consider the merits of the student-supervisor-project combinations and their alignment with QUT's objectives for the Centre, including
  - the potential of this project to align with the vision, plan and goals of the CDS
  - the potential to promote diversity and inclusion
- Assessors will consider how top-ups could be allocated across each of the Centre's four research programs,
  - Data for Discovery
  - Models and Algorithms
  - Data-Focused Decision Making
  - Applied Data Science
- The CDS Core Team and/or Co-Leaders of Research Programs and Domains will provide a list of potential applications who may be considered for the CDS top-up scholarships to all the Associate Deans of Research and Directors of Research Training for their respective Faculty Ranking Meetings by Friday 13 November 2020 (tentative)

- Each Faculty to inform CDS if they will be making formal offer of PhD scholarships for any of the potential applications who may be considered for the CDS top-up scholarships and where the student ranks in their Faculty list by 30 November 2020 (tentative)
- The CDS Core Team and/or Co-Leaders of Research Programs and Domains will reconvene, decide on the final offers of top-ups, and inform each Faculty by 4 December 2020 (tentative)
  - Offers of top-ups are made contingent upon students being made a formal offer of a PhD scholarship at QUT
  - The timing of this process aims for students to receive both a formal offer of a PhD scholarship at QUT and a top-up at the same time (ideally in the one letter)

Student Engagement

The Centre is exploring to form a HDR Data Science Society for HDRs. We are in the process of seeking interests and student volunteers who will be willing to assist in the formation of such a society.

Our Centre Participants are also active contributors to the QUT BAND – a QUT student club for aspiring Business Analysts, Data Scientists, and everyone interested in these fields.

Australian Data Science Network (ADSN)

The Australian Data Science Network (ADSN) seeks to connect the concentrations of expertise in data science across Australia, in order to improve communication, encourage collaboration, expand opportunities, and promote our individual and collective capabilities.

The Centre has contacted all the initial ADSN partners who have nominated a communications contact in each of their organisation so that when the Digital Communications Coordinator is on board, work can commence around the ADSN website.

We have also appointed a Digital Communications Coordinator here at QUT till 31 January 2021 at 2 days a week to work on the website and some ADSN events (e.g. Hackathon with an industry partner).

David Lovell has been working with GoDaddy to design the ADSN website. Latest draft version can be found: http://w0x.998.myftpupload.com/

Others

In addition to the above, below are some of the other research development and initiatives:

- See below item 6 for more information on Industry Engagement and activities

- A Pop-Up Pitch was held to share ideas for research around supply chains in beef and horticulture (6 August 2020). Ideas here will be feedback to the Expert Working Group to contribute towards a position paper that will focus the opportunities that emerge to the

CRC Food Agility, Mission Food for Life. Mission Food for Life is a $10 million initiative that will deliver new data-driven capabilities to increase the value of the Australian agri-food sector and help us keep food on the table in a crisis and beyond.

- The Data-Focused Decision Making Research Program conducted a data science discussion for an overview of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society (24 August 2020)

- The Data for Discovery Research Program is planning on a series of 'awareness/introduction' workshops between now and the end of the year.

- The Applied Data Science Research Program is planning for a follow up meeting and is also looking at making available a list of availability data sets that researchers can access to or be made aware of.

- The merged Methods and Algorithms Research Program conducted surveys and introductory meetings.

- The various Domains of the Centre will be conducting surveys and meetings of Centre Participants around opportunities for research collaboration and grant applications.

5. Research Grants Development

In addition to individual project grants e.g. ARCs, NHMRCs etc, some of the research grant development of Centre Participants include:

- CRC Longevity bid (David Lovell) was successfully submitted to the Department of Industry, Science, energy and Resources's CRC Program on Wed 29 July 2020.

- ARC Research Hub for transforming data science capabilities in agribusiness bid update: Secured support from UNSW and UTS: Will provide cash and in-kind (CIs) to support the proposal. Also secured support from Food Agility CRC, Future Food Systems CRC, Fight Food Waste CRC, Food Innovation Australia Ltd and CRDC. Promising discussions with MLA and IAG. Planning workshop with all potential CIs to be conducted soon.

6. Industry Engagement and Key Partners

The Centre held a meeting with Key Partners and some industry collaborators on 29 July 2020 seek industry perspective on how the Centre can add value in the area of data science to their organisations towards impactful research translation and general capability of data science in Australia.

Suggested and supported modes of engagement between the Centre and Key Partners/industry collaborators include:

- Panel sessions and newsletters maybe a good foundation to start, which could then naturally roll into collaborative workshops and projects.
- Collaborative workshops would be a good way to look at things from a fresh perspective.
- Creating a forum for people to present a problem and to see inputs/comments from others. E.g. here is my problem, but I don't know what to do, any suggestions?
- There is a need to have better understanding of methodologies that people are using and developing. Opportunities to talk of these ideas would be useful.

Based on the above feedback, the Centre with the assistance of one of the Postdoctoral Fellows, will kick start a workshop where industry partners are invited to present a problem or challenge that they face and the Centre and other provide possible suggestions to solve that problem/challenge. We hope to this in October/November 2020.

More details on the Centre's industry engagement with key partners and other potential partners are as below.

Most Recent Activities

Partner	Maturity	Development	Target Partnership Value
Australian Bureau of Statistics (Strategic Partner)	Finalising Contract – awaiting signing (expected execution – 01/10/2020)	- 0.5FTE Lev D Chair funded for 3 years. - 3 x co-funded PhD Scholarships	- $186,000 p.a. (3 years)
Consortium: - Australian Institute of Sport - Queensland Academy of Sport - QUT Centre for Data Science	Awaiting contract execution.	- 0.5FTE Industry Research Fellow - 3+ x PhD Scholarships	- $144k+ p.a. (3 years)
Black Box Co (Collaborative Partner)	Early	- Potentially a co-funded PhD Scholarship via FA CRC.	- TBD
Children's Health Queensland (Strategic Partner)	Matured (contract for a PhD agreement awaiting execution).	- 1 x PhD Scholarship - Opportunity for growth post-Covid.	- $10k p.a. (3 years)
Consortium: - Food Agility CRC - QUT Centre for Data Science	Awaiting contract execution.	- 1FTE (Lev B) Constellation Leader - 3 HDR Scholarships - +several projects over the life of the constellation.	- $275k p.a. (3 years)
Iphix Downunder	Early	- ARC Linkage proposal	- TBD
Meat and Livestock Australia/Integrity Systems Corporation	Early-to-mid	- Hackathons - Potential projects	- TBD

		- Potential FA CRC projects via constellation.	
Qld Department of Environment and Science (Strategic Partner)	Early (and promising)	- Looking to establish a schedule of activities targeting priority areas of partnership. - Exploring a 3 year partnership – likely through a consortium approach (DNRME, Telstra included).	- TBD
Qld Department of Natural Resources, Mining and Energy – Geological Survey of Queensland Group (Strategic Partner)	Early-(and promising)	- Established commercial research project - Significant opportunity for future projects targeting 3 priority areas.	- $200k-$300k p.a.
Qld Police Service	Early	- Adapting our publicly available data from QWB towards a useful and valuable use case for crime and safety across Brisbane via a PhD Scholarship and further data access.	- TBD
Sunsuper	Early	- Commercial research projects potential	- TBD

Industry Engagements: Overview

Partner	Maturity	Development	Target Partnership Value
Australian Institute of Maritime Sciences (Strategic Partner)	Progressed. Awaiting progression of AIMS' non-RRAP programs.	- Several established projects. - Looking to scale projects with new postdocs.	- ~$100k-$400k+ p/a
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (Brisbane) (Collaborative Partner)	Pre-initialisation (no further update)	- Research consultancy pre-initialised - Significant future collaboration opportunities	- <$50k p/a
Brisbane Airport Corporation (Strategic Partner)	Early (Halted – COVID-19).	- 4 x funded postdoctoral projects)	- $100k-$300k p/a (level of uncertainty) (3 years)

Cancer Council Queensland (Collaborative Partner)	Early-to-Mid (investigating funding mechanisms to support further collaboration).	- Partner on an ARC Linkage - Exploration of a funding mechanisms to leverage for a collaborative research project.	- NA
Carumba Institute (Collaborative Partner)	Mid	- Establishing an Indigenous Australian Data Science PhD Program (3 x PhD Scholarships - Initially)	- NA
Qld Department of Innovation and Tourism Industry Development (Strategic Partner)	Matured	- Established a longitudinal study to monitor key aspects of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Precinct	- NA (potentially ad hoc funding of <$100k)
QSuper (Strategic Partner)	Early (a level of uncertainty – COVID-19)	- Opportunity for a range of projects.	- $300k+ p/a
REDD Digital (Collaborative Partner)	Matured	- Potential for internship projects. - Potential for PhDs	- TBD
United Nations Statistical Division (Collaborative Partner	Early	- Potential for commercial research projects	- NA
Consortiums	**Maturity**	**Development**	**Target Partnership Value**
- Qld Department of Environment and Science - QUT Centre for Data Science - Qld Department of Natural Resources, Mining and Energy – Geological Survey of Queensland Group - Telstra	Early	- Schedule of Activities targeting key priorities in Water Data Quality.	$500k - 1m p/a (level of uncertainty) (2 Years)

7. Communications

Twitter followers have grown from 299 (as of 10 June 2020) to 437 (as of 9 September 2020).

SEF Communications has made available a Communications Officer – Lucy Crook – to support the three Tier 1 SEF hosted research centres in July 2020. Lucy has been a great

resource to date and has started in enriching the Centre's website content.

A communications plan is in the pipeline.

More details on news stories regarding the Centre can be found here.

8. Equity and Diversity

The Centre has a draft equity, diversity and inclusion statement (see below).

Equity, diversity and inclusion statement

We strive to build and nurture a culture that values inclusivity and diversity and respects all Centre researchers regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, ability, ethnicity, race, and culture. We value and promote an inclusive environment where researchers feel empowered to share their experience and ideas.

We work towards these goals by:

- Aligning to QUT's equity, diversity and inclusion policies

- Ensuring that the Centre leadership is diverse and inclusive

- Improving recognition and visibility of achievements through proactive nomination of diverse groups for awards, prizes and fellowships

- Encouraging mentorship and sponsorship, particularly Early Career Investigators and Higher Degree Research students

- Raising awareness through promoting training and development on equity, diversity and inclusion topics

- Ensuring there is gender balance in panels and forums that the Centre organises or promotes

- Promoting diversity in our communication plans (e.g. profiling students and staff from diversity cohorts; developing and delivering event schedules and guidelines that promote diversity and inclusion)

- Adopting recruitment strategies to attract diverse researchers and students and using non-gender biased language and inclusive messaging

We support and uphold QUT's values of ambition, curiosity, integrity, inclusiveness and innovation. Find out more about QUT's equity, diversity and inclusion policies

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The Centre is planning to conduct a meeting with Centre Participants to seek feedback on what are the barriers for equity and diversity, how we can remove the barriers, and how we can encourage the enablers of equity and diversity in data science. We are exploring using an online collaboration platform (e.g. miro) where participants can interact and comment

during and after a live meeting in a safe and non-confrontational manner.

A breakdown of the number and % of females is as below:

	No of Females	% of Females
Associate Investigator and DataScience@QUT	25	29%
Chief Investigator	7	39%
Postdoc	2	40%
Student	16	29%
Grand Total	50	31%

9. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The Centre submitted its strategic plans and KPIs earlier this year to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice President (Research and Innovation). These have been shared with the Vice Chancellor and President and have been commended for their alignment with QUT objectives.

A status update on our year-to-date KPIs for each of our high-level goals is as below

High Level Goals	Operational Plan	KPI Measures (per annum unless otherwise stated)	YTD KPI (as of 10 Sep 2020)
To create an active Centre that is inclusive and representative of Data Science expertise across QUT	Recruit Associate Investigators (AIs) across QUT and create a DataScience@QUT Network	50 AIs 25 DataScience@QUT	85 AIs and DataScience@QUT 18 CIs
	Develop a successful program of joint activities for the Centre	2 DataScience for HDR Networking session 9 DataScience Under the Hood seminars	2 DataScience for HDR Networking session 5 DataScience Under the Hood seminars, with another 3 till end of 2020.
	Develop equity and diversity policy in line with QUT and professional policies	% of female Centre Participants – 30% Women in Data Science networking session	See item 8 Equity and Diversity for statistics 31% female Centre Participants
To become internationally respected and	Develop a set of internationally leading core research projects	10 core projects	8 ARC Discovery grants (DP20); 1 ARC Linkage; 2 ARC DECRAs

	aligned to Centre Research Programs		
renowned for world-class, frontier research in data science	*Appoint CDS postdocs	6 postdocs	7 postdocs (6 funded by CDS, 1 funded by QUT Business School)
	*Provide CDS PhD Scholarship top-ups	5 scholarship top-ups	5 scholarship top-ups (1 rejected initial scholarship for another uni and 1 accepted and then went to another uni with a better scholarship offer.
	Enlist other CDS researchers and students	CDS researchers and students to come from 5 Schools	CDS researchers and students come from 17 Schools and Institutes (Mathematical Sciences, Computer Science, Information Systems, Built Environment, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Robotics, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Biology and Environmental Science, Biomedical Sciences, Public Health and Social Work, IHBI, IFE, Economics and Finance, Communications, ACE, Law, Management)
		50 peer-reviewed journal articles by Centre Participants	153 peer-reviewed journal articles by Centre Participants (as per spreadsheet from RISS in Sep 2020 manual tagging of all Centre Participants)
		5 joint publications between different groups at QUT	>5
	*Award CDS research excellence prizes	5 CDS awards	TBA
To amplify impact of CDS through external partnerships in	*Fund and organise a Distinguished Visitors Seminar Program	5 Distinguished Visitors	This program did not proceed due to border restrictions and COVID19

research and translation	Develop a Key Partners Program in collaboration with Office of Industry Engagement	4 Data Science @ Work key partners events	Feedback session with Key Partners and industry collaborators held. See industry updates in Item 6 above on partnership development work to bring other grants/consultancies in.
	*Develop a program of Data Science Workshops aligned to CDS Domains	3 collaborative workshops	TBA
	Identify and publicise external funding opportunities in collaboration with Office of Research Services and Office of Industry Engagement	5 CAT1 joint research grant applications	36 CAT1 grant applications (as per spreadsheet from RISS in Sep 2020 and manual tagging of all Centre Participants with project starts in 2021 with funding outcomes both pending and rejected). See industry updates in Item 6 above on partnership development work to bring other grants/consultancies in.
To advance the Centre and QUT as a national leader in Data Science	Develop and lead an Australia Data Science Network (ASDN)	10 ASDN members	11 ASDN members
	Develop and promote collaborations with international cognate centres	3 international collaborators	TBA
	*Develop an ASDN website	ADSN website	AustralianDataScience.net purchased
	*Develop a social media program for CDS and ASDN	100 Twitter followers	437 @QUTDataScience Twitter followers @AustralianData Twitter for ADSN grabbed
To train world class postgraduates, researchers and practitioners within the Centre research culture To increase participation in Data	Encourage and promote joint research supervision in collaboration with relevant Faculties/Schools	25 HDRs	55 HDRs
	*Organise external	4 industry events	TBC

Science research	networking events		
To increase general capability in Data Science	*Develop and implement a CDS undergraduate VRES program in collaboration with relevant Faculties/Schools	5 undergraduates in VRES program	None offered in 2020. Centre to review this KPI.
	Develop a CDS Professional Sabbatical Program in collaboration with relevant Faculty International and Engagement teams	2 participants	TBC. However, the Centre is in the process of establishing a chair with ABS.
	Promote and support QUT and national internship programs for CDS ECRs and postgraduates in collaboration with relevant Faculty International and Engagement teams	2 participants	1 participant

*Budget Item

10. Budget

Please see *Appendix 1* for the budget forecast

The Centre is forecast to have a large carryover from 2020 into 2021 (~$1.2M) due to late start of postdocs, redeployment of funds allocated for Level C positions to co-funded PhD scholarships which will require time to interest industry partners, sign agreements and recruit students.

This large carryover is forecast to be drawn down in 2021 through to 2023. This is based on:

- Recruitment of a 7th postdoc (2 yrs fixed-term) specifically for the Data Focused Decision Making research program which is the only research program that was not successful in recruiting a suitable candidate in the first round of postdoc recruitment.

- Recruitment of 3 postdocs (2 yrs fixed-term) to start approx. mid 2021, and another 4 postdocs to start approx.. mid to late 2022.

- Commencement of approx. 26 co-funded PhD scholarships between 2021 through to 2022. The forecast has been extended out to 2025 (the Centre funding is for 5 years from 2020 to 2024) to take into consideration commitments to PhD scholarship extensions and completion time required.

- Commencement of approx. 5 PhD top-ups per year between 2020 through to 2022.

11. QUT Annual Reporting

The QUT Annual Reporting for Tier 1 Centre is due 1 October. A light touch reporting for 2020 is in place with 2 templates to be completed with a maximum of 3 pages. The first template is a matrix of the Centre's progress report, evidence and future actions for each of the Centre's objectives. The second template is a budget template from 2020 to 2022, to be accompanied with a brief justification for any unspent funds for 2020 into 2021.

Access to data appears to be a challenge in the current environment where new systems and faculty structures are being established. The Centre has been advised that future reporting data will not be based on a membership model. It is our understanding that attribution of projects and research outputs is based at the project and research output level. The Centre has been provided with three spreadsheets with research projects, research outputs and HDR students. Centre has undertaken a manual tagging process of relevant projects and research outputs attributable to the Centre and has provided this back to RISS. RISS will use this information to then provide a reporting data for the Centre for inclusion in its Annual Report.

A draft version of the Centre's Annual Report is attached in *Appendix 2*.

12. Queens Wharf Brisbane Longitudinal Benefits and Impact Study: Phase 3

September 2020 Update

General:

- Phase 3 and beyond scope has been modified:
  - 6 x PhD students with co-funding from CDS, Project funds & Faculty funds
    - Connectivity & Public Realm
    - Liveability
    - Finance and construction
    - Gambling (student confirmed)
    - Public Sentiment
    - Tourism (student confirmed)

  - Advertising for students will take place as soon as funding is confirmed.

- Kerrie Mengersen met with DITID in April to discuss the possibility of releasing the Phase 1 & 2 reports, dashboard and or an Executive Summary publicly. A follow up a

letter was then sent to Minister Kate Jones seeking approval. A response is expected in the coming weeks. – Still awaiting (Sept 2021)

- Geremy Farr-Wharton presented a pitch to DITID in August to then use in meetings with Industry to seek funding for future phases. (Completed Aug 21)
- Updated Proposal re issued to DITID in Sept as well as Project Plan draft.

Funding:

- We have funding from CDS scholarships, Project funds and School contributions totalling $552,513.83 over 3 years.
- We have requested additional funding from DITID of $218,923.62 over 3 years – still awaiting confirmation.

Proposed Timeline:

PhD's will run 2021-2024

- September – December 2020 - DITID Data Brief and fortnightly liaising for data requirements and setting up of all new data agreements.
- December 2020 - All data agreements to be in place.
- January 2021 - Project Manager to produce Project Plan
- March 2021 - PhD Students to commence
- May 2021 - Study teams to produce Study Plans (progress report)
- July 2021 – Progress report from Students (Interim report)
- November 2021 – Progress report from students (Final report)

Financial Update @ close of August 2020:

Funding received to date: $299,994.29

Expenditure to date: $42,863.08

Balance @ close of August: $257,131.20