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MR CRAIG BURNS

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

Mr Craig Burns has recently been appointed the new RIRDC Managing Director.

Chair of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), Professor Daniela Stehlik, announced in July that Mr Craig Burns will be the Corporation's next Managing Director.

"I am pleased to announce Mr Craig Burns will be the new Managing Director of RIRDC, and will take on responsibility for leading the organization which plays a key role investing in research and development to help achieve a more profitable, sustainable and dynamic rural industries," Professor Stehlik said.

Mr Burns comes to the position after a highly successful career in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. He is currently Executive Manager, Trade and Market Access Division in DAFF and is responsible for coordinating the Department's engagement on a range of multilateral, regional and bilateral activities. Mr Burns previously had the role of Executive Manager, Free Trade Agreements which included participation in Free Trade Agreement negotiations.

Prior to this, Mr Burns was the General Manager, Trade Policy within the Department's International Division. He has also held the position of Minister-Counsellor (Agriculture) at the Australian Delegation to the OECD in Paris.

Mr Burns was Chairman of the International Grains Council from 2001 to 2002 and Vice Chair of the OECD Committee for Agriculture from 2002 to 2004. "I wish to thank the current Acting Managing Director, Mr Tony Byrne, who has been leading the Corporation since May," Professor Stehlik said.

"I am confident that Mr Burns' considerable skills and experience across the agriculture portfolio will equip him for the many challenges of his new role.

"The Board and I are looking forward to working with him and his RIRDC team to continue achieving results for rural Australia."

Mr Burns commenced at RIRDC on 12 July 2010.