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Australian Government

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

Proposed Transfer of the Deer R&D Program from RIRDC Established Industries Portfolio 2 RIRDC New Industries Portfolio 1

In recent consultations between representatives of the deer industry and RIRDC, it was proposed that the Deer Program be moved from its current 'stand-alone' position in Portfolio 2 to that of a sub-program in the New Animal Products Program in Portfolio 1. Such an action would be consistent with the outcomes of a recently commissioned review of the Deer Program. The New Animal Products Program includes industries of a similar size, and with similar research and development needs to the deer industry. This synergy will provide opportunities for information sharing, and inclusion in program activities, such as the New Animal Industry Symposium.

During discussions of this possibility, a number of key points were raised by industry representatives as conditions for any such change. The Corporation's response to those requests are provided here.

(1) Use of industry-derived funds

It is agreed that funds derived from the deer industry either directly (eg: as levies or voluntary contributions) or indirectly (eg: as funds attaching to levies) will be used only for purposes relating to R&D for the benefit of the industry.

(2) The Deer R&D Advisory Committee

It is agreed that the deer industry will be entitled to nominate two representatives to the Deer R&D Advisory Committee. This Committee will be separate to the New Animal Products Advisory Committee. This will ensure that there is no possibility of a conflict of interest with any other industry in the program. It is agreed that one of the two initial appointees to the Committee will be Ms Nola Anderson.

(3) Continuance of reporting to the Industry AGM

It is agreed that the New Animal Products Program will continue the existing practice of supporting the DIAA AGM as an element of the communications Objective of the Five Year Deer Industry R&D Plan.

(4) Continuance of reporting to the Industry AGM

It is agreed that, on invitation, a representative of RIRDC will attend the DIAA AGM to provide a report on the activities of the Corporation in relation to the industry, and in other respects as appropriate.

New research manager for the RIRDC Deer Program Julie Bird, from RIRDC's New Industries Portfolio, will take over the management of the Deer Program. Julie has been with RIRDC for a year, and has been developing the National Research, Development and Extension Strategies for New and Emerging Industries, and Bio-energy. The New and Emerging Industries Strategy includes deer industry RD&E, and will recommend changes to current RD&E models, to increase collaboration, efficiency and effectiveness.



Pic 1 – Julie Bird and June Murphy

Julie Bird – Research Manager for the RIRDC Deer Program

Julie has worked with many new and emerging industries throughout her career – both animal and plant. Industry development is her passion, and she looks forward to working with the deer industry in the future. Below is a brief bio outlining Julie's previous experience with agricultural industry research and development.

Senior Research Manager – RIRDC

Sept 2008 – current

Currently managing the National Research, Development and Extension Strategies for New and Emerging Industries, and Bio-energy. These strategies are part of the Primary Industries Ministerial Council's National RD&E Framework, designed to increase collaboration, efficiency and effectiveness of RD&E across primary industry. The management of these processes has required significant industry liaison, including workshops and consultation, in order to develop these high level strategies.

Director Agriculture – Department of Climate Change

July 2007 – Sept 2008

Managed the Greenhouse Action for Regional Australia Program. Research areas included mitigation of agricultural emissions, such as methane from livestock, as well as adaptation opportunities for regional Australia. Developed a best practice guide for farmers, to be released by the Agriculture Minister soon. Moved to RIRDC at the conclusion of this program.

Region Head Katherine – Crops, Forestry and Horticulture, NT Government

2005 – 2007

Management of horticulture, cropping and forestry divisions in the Katherine region. Business planning, head of the extension program, managed and reviewed research. Research at the Katherine Research Station included many new and emerging products, such as tropical fruits, sesame, and bio-energy crops. Also involved in NRM issues, water allocations. Involved in many intra-state initiatives (national extension activities, national conference organization, bio-security planning), and developed Indigenous employment program for the department. Was also running small cattle station on own at this time.

Senior Extension Officer, NT Government Katherine

2002-2005

Technical advice to farmers on one-on-one and group basis (workshops). Set up very successful best practice group, model copied in many other regions and interstate.

Agronomist – Landmark Darwin and Katherine regions

1998 – 2002

Crops include tropical horticulture, tropical pastures, rangeland management, Asian vegetables. Running workshops, writing technical articles on a national level.

1996 – 1998

Furney's Stock Feeds, Dubbo-Stockfeed sales, advice and diet formulation.

1994 – 1996

Inghams – Management of large meat chicken breeding farm.

1993 – 1994

Animal Supplies/Equine Supplies – sales and advice animal health products, writing technical articles.

Prior 1993

Ran family cattle stud Wagga Wagga – embryo transfer, showing, etc.

Interests

Enjoy raising cattle, sheep, stock horses and working dogs in the Snowy Mountains outside Canberra. Keen campdraft competitor and skier.

Qualifications

Bachelor of Applied Science – Agriculture, Charles Sturt University – Wagga

Public Sector Management Post Grad Certificate, Macquarie University

Rural Extension Post Grad Certificate, University of Queensland – *including adult learning, group facilitation*

Julie Murphy – Deer Program Coordinator

June has previously held the position of program coordinator for the deer program. She also coordinates the New Animal Products, Kangaroos, Buffalo, Rare and Natural Fibres, Essential Oil products, and Wildflowers and Native Plants Programs at RIRDC. This October June will have been with RIRDC for 10 years, and she is looking forward to working with the deer industry again.