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## **NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR DEER R&D AVAILABLE**

### Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

The Deer R&D Program is funded by industry levies and Australian Government matching funding up to 0.5% of the Gross value of farm gate production. Every five years a new Plan is developed. The 2006-2011 Deer R&D Plan is the third Five Year Plan developed by the Australian deer industry and the Australian Government (via RIRDC) and it identifies key objectives for R&D development. Associated with each objective is a set of strategies to be followed in pursuing each objective and a set of performance indicators to give guidance as to how the program can be assessed as it progresses. An indicative share of the R&D budget has also been proposed for each plan objective in order to guide investment priorities.

This Five Year Plan reflects a major change in the direction of the deer industry's R&D activities in 2005/06. The Plan focuses on stimulating and supporting the R&D initiatives that are necessary for the deer industry to move from a commodity focus to an end market focus. The DIAA and the Advisory Committee were closely involved in the development of the R&D Plan which was refined following industry feedback. The Plan should be regarded as a living document that will be updated as changing circumstances in the industry require.

The Plan is available free from RIRDC or can be downloaded from the RIRDC website at <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/pub/deerrd1.html> . For your free copy contact Christine Joannides on 02-6271-4136.

The next round of applications for funding of Deer R&D opens in August 2008.

Every year RIRDC calls for applications for funding of research projects that address the research priorities set out in the Five Year Deer R&D Plan. This is a two stage process where preliminary applications are submitted in September and projects given priority by the R&D Advisory Committee are further developed for consideration as final applications.

Anyone who has a scientifically/technically grounded project can apply. Priority is given to projects that address new areas of research or industry priorities and fall within the scope of the Five Year Plan. Projects addressing emerging industry issues will also be considered. If you would like to discuss your ideas for deer research before submitting an application for funding, please contact the Deer R&D Program's Research Manager – Annette Sugden on 02-6271-4138. Further information on the Deer R&D Program and announcement of the next round of applications can be found on the RIRDC website at <http://www.rirdc.gov.au> .