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## **PROFESSOR DANIELA STEHLIK APPOINTED CHAIR FOR RIRDC**

### Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon. Tony Burke MP has appointed Professor Daniela Stehlik as the chair of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC). Professor Stehlik is one of Australia's leading social scientists in the area of sustainability, human service practice and social cohesion with a focus on families and communities in regional/rural Australia. She has also recently been appointed as inaugural Director of the new Northern Institute at Charles Darwin University.

From 2003 to early 2010 Professor Stehlik held the position of Foundation Chair in Stronger Communities and Director of the Research Centre for Stronger Communities (RCSC) at Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Western Australia, where she led a team of social scientists working in sustainability and conservation; land use change; strengths-based practice models and place and community vulnerability. Before that appointment, Professor Stehlik served for nine years at Central Queensland University.

In 200, she completed an appointment to the Expert Panel on the Social Impacts of Drought for the Federal Minister of Agriculture's Review of National Drought Policy. She was an invited participant in the Australia 2010 Summit and the National Rural Women's Summit in 2008. Professor Stehlik's involvement in community, development activities and the impact of change on communities has led to a number of publications focusing on issues associated with social sustainability, community capacity building and evidence based policy. She has given visiting lectures in the US, Canada, the UK, and the Czech Republic.

She is actively involved in policy development and public commentary on community issues in Australia, and undertakes many public contributions on these issues each year – including acting as a consultant to the National Rural Women's Coalition and the Country Women's Association. She is particularly interested in the generative capacity of women's energy and enthusiasm as an important component of community flourishing.

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