



Australian Government



Cotton Research and Development Corporation

Grains Research and Development Corporation

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation

Land & Water Australia

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

Sugar Research and Development Corporation

Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation

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## Media Release

### RURAL R&D GENERATES BENEFITS OF \$8.5 BILLION

The Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations' Chairs welcomes the Productivity Commission's report into science and innovation and notes that it recognises the current model of industry and government-funded rural R&D is inherently sound.

"The Productivity Commission has recognised that there are grounds for significant public funding for rural R&D where there are spillover benefits to the wider community," said Terry Enright, the chair of the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations' Chairs.

"We believe this is the case with all of Australia's 15 RDCs".

An analysis of a sample of rural RDC projects reviewed over the past six years has shown substantial benefits both to industry and society from the work of the RDCs.

A review by economic researchers ACIL Tasman of cost benefit analyses of 134 RDC projects undertaken between 2000 and 2007, found that while around \$1 billion had been invested by the RDCs in these projects, this had generated net benefits of \$5.5 billion to industry and at least \$3 billion in wider social benefits.

"These social benefits include issues such as improved water use efficiency, food safety, safer use of pesticides, advances in environmental and natural resource management and animal welfare," Mr Enright said.

"It is actually because rural research generates significant public benefits, that without the Government's support, farmers would be unable to fund the research on their own.



The Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations' Chairs has agreed to a consistent framework for evaluation of the R&D investments to provide more independent evaluation of the impact of the work of the RDCs.

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