National Farmers Federation

Strategic Examination of Research and Development

April 2025

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) is the voice of Australian farmers.

The NFF was established in 1979 as the national peak body representing farmers and more broadly, agriculture across Australia. The NFF's membership comprises all of Australia's major agricultural commodities across the breadth and the length of the supply chain.

Operating under a federated structure, individual farmers join their respective state farm organisation and/or national commodity council. These organisations form the NFF.

The NFF represents Australian agriculture on national and foreign policy issues including workplace relations, trade and natural resource management. Our members complement this work through the delivery of direct 'grass roots' member services as well as state-based policy and commodity-specific interests.

NFF Member Organisations

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Executive Summary

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources' (DISR's) Strategic Examination of Research and Development (the Strategic Examination).

The NFF is the voice of Australian farmers and was established in 1979 as the national peak body representing farmers and the agriculture sector across Australia. The NFF's membership comprises all of Australia's major agricultural commodities across the breadth and the length of the supply chain. The NFF is also a declared representative organisation of Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (AgriFutures Australia), one of the five Commonwealth statutory Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs).

Research and development (R&D) is a crucial aspect of Australia's agriculture industry, underpinning innovation, driving productivity gains, and boosting industry competitiveness. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) supports that for every $1 invested in agricultural R&D, there is an almost $8 return for farmers over 10 years. However, the growth of Australia's agricultural productivity has slowed over time.

While broadacre farm productivity had an average annual growth rate of 2.18% from 1977-78 to 1999-2000, from 2000-01 to 2022-23 that growth rate slowed to just 0.72%. In this context, continued investment in agricultural R&D and refinement of Australia's R&D system is fundamental to driving accelerated agricultural productivity growth.

Increasing Australian agricultural R&D can play a key role in boosting Australia's comparatively minimal R&D output. Australia's broader gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) in 2021–22 was estimated at $38.8 billion, or 1.68% as a proportion of GDP (ABS 2023). This is the most recent estimated GERD figure. However, as a proportion of Australia's GDP, this is significantly below the average of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations, which was 2.72% in 2021.

The NFF believes agricultural R&D, with its consistently high rate of return and its crucial role in ensuring Australia's ongoing food and fibre security, should be a centrepiece for boosting Australia's R&D.

The NFF provides the following information for consideration in the Strategic Examination:

- The RDCs are integral to supporting the productivity and sustainability of Australian agriculture.
- The NFF maintains strong support for the current architecture of the RDC model, including – at a minimum – the present level of government contributions to match industry levies. The NFF strongly supports the importance of commodity-based RDCs as a prime contributor to and facilitator of agricultural R&D.
- The commodity-based structure of the RDC framework can pose a challenge to sector-wide collaboration. Research into large-scale, cross-commodity matters has at times been hampered by a lack of collaboration and transparency, and by complex funding arrangements.

- Collaboration and co-investment in shared, cross-sectoral priorities has increased in recent years.

- An increased, concerted effort towards further cross-sectoral collaboration would create further efficiencies and benefit Australian farmers. Cross-sectoral collaboration should be encouraged between RDCs and external parties.

- Government investment in agricultural R&D is decreasing, placing resourcing pressures on the RDCs. As a result, the RDCs are being asked to contribute more to traditionally co-funded R&D projects, meet the rising costs R&D in Australia, and simultaneously expand their remits across the Research, Development, Extension, Adoption and Commercialisation continuum.

- The Strategic Examination should give regard to strategies that support the development of tertiary institutions' comparative advantages – and how funding mechanisms such as Research Block Grants can support capacity building for the same.

- An inefficient and onerous regulatory environment can constrain private sector investment into R&D. An appropriate regulatory environment should provide certainty, attract investment and strengthen the innovation pipeline from R&D through to commercialisation and uptake.

- Attracting more individuals to the R&D workforce, and offering greater career flexibility, should be a shared priority and requires careful consideration.

To spur innovation in agriculture, the NFF supports the Strategic Examination considering:

- Building an attractive investment environment for innovative public-private partnership investments by providing investment and tax incentives.

- Investigating funding models that encourage tertiary institutions to better collaborate with industry and other relevant institutions on cross-disciplinary research.

- Strengthening pathways from R&D to adoption and commercialisation, and other matters such as supporting the R&D workforce.

Agricultural innovation system

The Australian Agricultural Innovation system consists of a wide range of participants with diverse roles and responsibilities. Key contributors to agricultural research and development include the 15 Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs), the Australian Government including the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), state and territory governments, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs), universities and other education providers, farming system groups, participants in the agricultural value chain, startups and entrepreneurs, agribusinesses and other private sector organisations.

End users of agricultural innovation are typically participants within the agricultural value chain, including Australian farmers. Innovation extends to the education and finance sectors, as human and financial capital act as important inputs for innovation.

The Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs)

Overview

The establishment of the RDCs (now 15 in total) through the Primary Industries Research and Development Act 1989 was a milestone for R&D in Australian agriculture, driving research, development and extension through a shared funding model of agricultural industry levies and government contributions.

This integrated funding arrangement supported demonstrable productivity growth in Australian agriculture, most notably through the delivery of transformational new technologies and approaches in the 1990s, delivering exceptional return on investment as well as spillover benefits for the broader Australian public, such as improved economic, environmental and social outcomes in rural communities, and enhanced food and fibre security.

Since its establishment, the RDC model has delivered a vast body of research targeted to Australia's unique agricultural commodities, market dynamics, production environment, and economics pressures. The RDCs play an integral role in supporting improved productivity, profitability, biosecurity, animal welfare, farm business management, input efficiency, trade and market access, value-add pathways, sustainability, social licence, capacity, technology adoption, and data integration. To this end, the RDCs invest around $1.4 billion a year in research, development, extension, adoption and commercialisation.

A notable strength of the RDC framework is the strong linkages between industry and the RDCs – helping to ensure RDC-backed research outcomes reflect the priorities and meet the needs of their relevant commodities. The strong alignment between industry and RDCs is further supported by the RDCs chiefly being included in the portfolio of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

This co-investment model has been comprehensively scrutinised and refined through frequent reviews and inquiries. The NFF strongly supports the current architecture of the RDC model, including – at a minimum – the present level of government contributions to match industry levies.

Key points:

- The RDCs are integral to supporting the productivity and sustainability of Australian agriculture.
- The NFF maintains strong support for the current architecture of the RDC model, including – at a minimum – the present level of government contributions to match industry levies.

Cross-sector collaboration

The commodity-based structure of the RDC framework has created challenges for sector-wide collaboration. RDCs' research into large-scale, cross-commodity matters has at times been hampered by a lack of collaboration and transparency.

As the 2019 Ernst and Young report 'Agricultural Innovation - A National Approach to Grow Australia's Future' stated: "Australia is recognised for excellent agricultural research outcomes supported by multiple streams of industry and government-backed investments. However, agricultural innovation in Australia was not designed to operate as a cohesive system – it is made up of many institutions and bodies put in place over time across different jurisdictions and commodities." Further, the 2021 National Agricultural Innovation Policy Statement confirmed that "the commodity arrangements also bring trade-offs – it can be more difficult to align strategy, resources and activity across multiple organisations, and it is difficult to assess the impact of the collective. In the absence of a strong collaborative culture, the commodity focus placed less emphasis on the large scale, cross cutting and transformational issues."

In 2020, the Australian Government launched a National Agricultural Innovation Agenda (the Agenda) with five pillars to reform the agricultural innovation space:

1. Strengthening leadership, cohesion and culture through clear strategic direction and increased collaboration.

2. Improving the balance of funding and investment to deliver both incremental and transformational innovation, and growing private sector and international investment.

3. Embedding world-class innovation practices through greater transparency and entrepreneurship.

4. Empowering our regions to achieve greater uptake of innovation.

5. Creating a next generation innovation platform by improving the foundations of agricultural innovation, including data and regulatory setting.

It included four innovation priorities:

1. Australia is a trusted exporter of premium food and agricultural products by 2030

2. Australia will champion climate resilience to increase the productivity, profitability and sustainability of the agricultural sector by 2030

3. Australia is a world leader in preventing and rapidly responding to significant incursions of pests and diseases through futureproofing our biosecurity system by 2030

4. Australia is a mature adopter, developer and exporter of digital agriculture by 2030.

The priorities articulated in the Agenda were intended to support more effective national coordination on key cross-sectoral issues facing Australian agriculture, which the NFF supports.

Creating co-investment opportunities

To address the need for improved collaboration and strategic alignment relating to cross-sectoral issues, in 2020 the 15 RDCs founded Agricultural Innovation Australia (AIA), a not-for-profit public company to facilitate joint investment into major cross-sectoral topics or issues facing Australian agriculture. AIA sought to address the gap left by the abolition of Land and Water Australia (LWA) in 2011.

Where previous RDC co-investment was largely ad hoc on aligned issues, such as on animal health and welfare across multiple animal-based RDCs, there has been a clear trend towards more structured and strategic RDC collaboration in alignment with the above priorities.

Another key mechanism for strategic RDC collaboration and co-investment is AgriFutures' Emerging National Rural Issues (ENRI) program. The ENRI program develops and facilitates cross-industry investments and partnerships and invests in research to inform and improve policy debate and industry strategies relating to emerging national rural issues. It has provided a valuable co-design process to facilitate cross-sectoral research to underpin policy development and decision-making.

In 2023-24 the RDCs undertook 3,505 projects across the six focus areas of Climate and Sustainability, Biosecurity, Trade and Market Access, First Nations engagement, Workforce, and Digital Innovation (Rural Research and Development Corporations, Collective Research and Innovation Outcomes Report 2024). These focus areas strongly reflect the innovation priorities of the National Agricultural Innovation Agenda noted above.

Around 900 other RDC projects were underway but not categorised into these six focus areas. Of the 3,505 projects, 158 involved inter-RDC collaboration and 1,314 involved external collaborators such as government agencies, universities, think tanks or industry partners, meaning around 42 per cent of projects in the six focus areas were collaborative.

The transparent reporting of such projects highlights a shifting attitude in the RDC framework towards greater collaboration on shared priorities.

Forums that support collaboration

The NFF strongly supports the role of the Rural Council of RDCs, a forum established in 2009 to support collective action from RDCs to deliver economic, environmental and social benefits for rural communities. The Rural Council of RDCs enables the RDCs to develop, share and communicate common positions, platforms and messages.

AgriFutures plays an integral role in facilitating collaboration and transparency on agricultural innovation between the RDCs, while also connecting the RDCs to the broader research and innovation sector. By way of example, AgriFutures grow[AG.] is a platform for Australian and global agrifood innovation. AgriFutures grow[AG.] is a gateway to Australian & global agrifood innovation that aims to transparently showcase research projects being undertaken by the RDCs, accelerate commercialisation of technologies, attract private sector investment in innovation across Australia, enable easy navigation of the key people and organisations working within the Australian ecosystem, connect information seekers and information owners and allow Australian farmers to see their levy funded research projects from across the RDC network using filters to search across the different commodities. Similarly, AgriFuture's evoke[AG.] connects the agrifood innovation community

across the Asia Pacific and around the world, providing a digital platform and a premier agrifood tech event where farmers share their experiences, startups pitch their potential, scientists showcase their discoveries, global business leaders share their insights and industry experts share their thoughts.

Example: Data Ecosystem of the Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework (AASF)

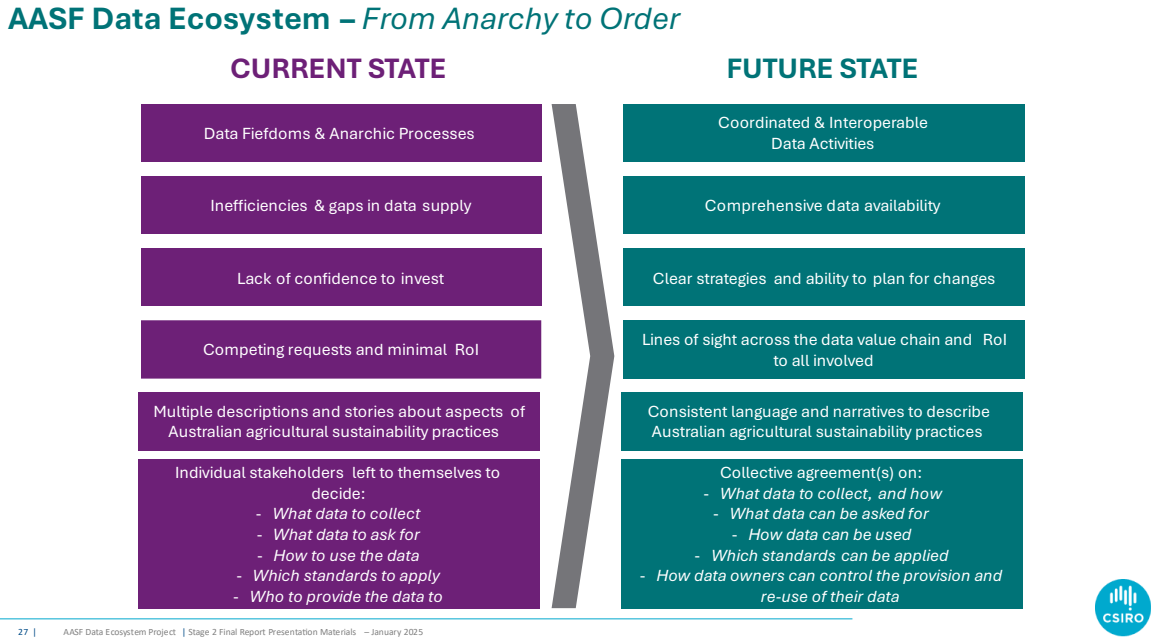
A prime example of ongoing challenges in agricultural innovation requiring enhanced cross sectoral collaboration can be drawn from the recent report from CSIRO, *AASF Data Ecosystem Project: From Anarchy to Order*. The AASF, being developed by the NFF, is the first country-specific framework to address sustainability from a whole-of-agriculture perspective.

CSIRO's report found:

- The current agricultural sustainability data ecosystem is anarchic in nature, with data sharing undertaken on an ad-hoc basis;
- Different drivers are informing how organisations develop their data practices, frameworks and governance arrangements;
- The greatest opportunity of, and the greatest risk to, the data ecosystem is trust.

Ongoing engagement across sectors can enhance trust and interoperability in data systems while protecting the integrity of individual data ownership.

Below is a summary from that report, contrasting the current state of the data ecosystem with a potential future state.



While the NFF strongly supports the importance of commodity-based RDCs as a prime contributor and facilitator of agricultural R&D, an increased, concerted effort towards further cross-sectoral collaboration would create efficiencies and benefit Australian farmers. Cross-sectoral collaboration should be encouraged between RDCs and external parties.

Key points:

- The NFF strongly supports the importance of commodity-based RDCs as a prime contributor to and facilitator of agricultural R&D.
- The commodity-based structure of the RDC framework can pose a challenge to sector-wide collaboration. Research into large-scale, cross-commodity matters has at times been hampered by a lack of collaboration and transparency.
- Collaboration and co-investment in shared, cross-sectoral priorities has increased in recent years.
- An increased, concerted effort towards further cross-sectoral collaboration would create further efficiencies and benefit Australian farmers. Cross-sectoral collaboration should be encouraged between RDCs and external parties.

Investment trends and resourcing pressures

Decreasing public investment in agricultural R&D is a pressing concern for Australian farmers and is changing the resourcing pressures on the RDCs. In recent years, Australian agriculture has seen a scaling back of co-investment by tertiary institutions, CSIRO, and state and territory agricultural departments into agricultural R&D activities. This concern is exacerbated by aforementioned evidence of the sector's productivity growth also slowing over time.

Total Australian agricultural R&D funding in 2023-24 was $2.98 billion, increasing slightly from $2.91 billion in 2022-23 (ABARES 2024). From 2005-06 to 2023-24, using real 2024 prices, private funding has grown at an average annual growth rate of 4.80%, substantially above the 1.45% of public funding. State and territory government funding has decreased at an average annual rate of 1.95% in that time. This has led to the situation whereby the private sector has overtaken the public sector as the main funder of agricultural R&D in 2023-24 ($1.52 billion and $1.47 billion respectively). Without increased and consistent public funding, much important research risks being omitted due to a lack of commercial outcomes for profit-based private companies.

RDCs have reported to the NFF that they are under mounting resourcing pressures. Firstly, RDCs report that growth in their resources (i.e. increased levy revenue to reflect increased commodity growth) has generally failed to keep pace with the rising costs of executing R&D. Escalating input costs, including capital expenditure on infrastructure and specialised equipment and rising labour costs, place a substantial burden on RDCs' capability to procure or complete research.

Secondly, decreased funding from states and territories has forced RDCs to broaden their remits to address essential R&D gaps and undertake increased extension activities. States

and territories previously played a central role in both funding and undertaking extension and adoption activities, but this has slowly constricted in line with the 1.95% average annual decrease in state and territory R&D funding as stated above (from 2005-06 to 2023-24 in real 2024 prices). Over that same timeframe, expenditure (rather than funding) from the Australian government has dropped by 2.41% per year on average, and state and territory governments' expenditure has dropped by 1.77% per year. Decreasing state and territory R&D output has led to weakened extension and adoption outcomes, as well as a downsizing of many state and territory R&D workforces, resulting in significant expertise leaving the system.

In response to state and territory governments moving away from conducting extension activities, the remit of the RDCs has necessarily expanded from traditional R&D to almost the entire Research, Development, Extension, Adoption and Commercialisation (RDEAC) continuum. While there are clear opportunities from greater RDC involvement in this space – such as in clearer pathways from research to commercialisation – equally there are associated challenges and risks from RDCs being forced to shoulder more of the Australian Extension and Adoption workload in lieu of commitment from states and territories.

Finally, co-investment in agricultural R&D from tertiary institutions is trending downwards, with RDCs reporting to the NFF that they are being asked to shoulder a greater portion of co-funded projects when collaborating with tertiary institutions. While funding specifics naturally vary across commodities and projects, RDCs report a broad long-term trend towards tertiary institutions seeking increased funding from RDCs. Traditionally the RDCs have funded around 50 per cent of a research project, usually directed towards operational requirements. Tertiary institutions funded the other 50 per cent, supporting core research staff such as scientists, technical staff, and administrative staff, and facilities. However, the typical co-investment from tertiary institutions is trending downwards. Some industry estimates place the new average funding mix as 70 per cent provided by RDCs and 30 per cent by tertiary institutions. Effectively, an increasing portion of RDC expenditure is now being directed towards funding overheads of research institutions. Further, the rate of industry growth – and therefore increased levy funding for RDCs – has generally not kept pace with the increasing costs of doing research.

Consequences of decreasing purchasing power

Rising research costs, decreasing public investment and decreasing co-investment from external parties shrinks the purchasing power of RDCs in research, and risks increasingly fragmenting research capacity and capability. Further, this could lead to a decreased focus on discovery, fundamental, or 'blue-sky' research, as RDCs may prioritise lower-risk research with more direct and timely outcomes for their levy-paying commodities. That is, because of the RDCs' structures and statutory funding and reporting obligations, they tend towards a lower risk profile based on return on investment to levy payers – and often prioritising incremental gains over transformational outcomes. This risk-averse profile is only exacerbated as RDCs' relative purchasing power decreases due to the above factors.

For smaller RDCs with comparatively constrained budgets, the need for R&D to prioritise immediate industry needs has, in some cases, led to RDCs almost exclusively undertaking projects that help industry members meet compliance obligations.

In considering the role of tertiary institutions in Australian R&D, particularly regarding agriculture, the NFF urges the Strategic Examination to scrutinise the changing co-

investment approaches of tertiary institutions. It is important that commensurate co-investment be provided from CSIRO, tertiary institutions and state and territory departments towards research that drives the agriculture industry's productivity and sustainability. The NFF views Research Block Grants (RBGs) under the Research Support Program (RSP) and the Research Training Program (RTP) as a potential mechanism to incentivise tertiary institutions to better collaborate with industry, including by providing commensurate funding.

As recognised by ABARES, "Public agricultural R&D tends to focus on long-term discoveries, whereas the private sector focus is usually on the development of commercially viable shorter-term products – therefore private sector investment cannot simply replace public sector investment. A blend of both investment sources is needed."

Key points:

- Government investment in agricultural R&D is decreasing, placing resourcing pressures on the RDCs. As a result, the RDCs are being asked to contribute more to traditionally co-funded R&D projects, meet the rising costs R&D in Australia, and simultaneously expand their remits across the Research, Development, Extension, Adoption and Commercialisation continuum.

Tertiary institutions and agricultural R&D

To enhance the effectiveness of tertiary institutions in supporting agricultural R&D, the NFF recommends the Strategic Examination consider the following matters.

Firstly, to strengthen the output and value of R&D delivered by tertiary institutions, it is important that individual institutions identify, develop, and leverage areas of comparative advantage. R&D in agriculture often requires highly specialised infrastructure, skills, and knowledge – both personal and institutional.

There are numerous examples of Australian tertiary institutions establishing long-running programs or institutions that deliver excellent R&D outcomes – especially when done in close collaboration with industry such as through RDCs. This includes, for example, the Centre for Crop and Disease management (CCDM), a partnership between Curtin University and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

In considering the role of tertiary institutions in agricultural R&D, the Strategic Examination should give regard to strategies that support the development of comparative advantages – and how funding mechanisms such as Research Block Grants can support capacity building for the same.

Key points:

- The Strategic Examination should give regard to strategies that support the development of tertiary institutions' comparative advantages – and how funding mechanisms such as Research Block Grants can support capacity building for the same.

Workforce challenges

Entrenched within the global culture of academia is the overwhelming pressure on researchers to publish academic work as frequently as possible – the well-known 'publish or perish' aphorism. This is particularly prevalent in research-oriented tertiary institutions, which in agricultural R&D tend to under-prioritise impact and business outcomes. Properly incentivising research impact over volume of publication, albeit while safeguarding discovery or fundamental research, could strengthen pathways to adoption and commercialisation.

Similarly, there remains an ongoing divide between academia and industry with regards to careers in R&D. That is, alongside the pressure to publish, researchers in academia often exist in an environment that restricts career flexibility, such that leaving tertiary research institutions and working within industry, such as agriculture, can be considerably career limiting. This is correctly noted in Page 23 of the Discussion Paper. Early- to mid-career researchers typically find themselves forced to decide between academic research, including tertiary institutions, and commercial R&D providers. Enhancing career flexibility would support stronger linkages between industry and academia and should be encouraged.

Not only is the workforce of agricultural R&D pressurized by such factors, but the size of the workforce itself requires expansion (Discussion Paper, Page 35). A lack of emphasis on agriculture in Australian secondary and tertiary institutes, as well as limited awareness of opportunities for school and university graduates to gain employment in agricultural R&D, means there is a small home-grown talent pool. Ensuring the ongoing capability and effectiveness of all R&D actors in agriculture requires an appropriately-sized, competent workforce. We also note, as mentioned above, that declining state and territory investment into R&D has led to a significant downsizing of the government R&D workforce – a so-called 'brain drain' with a concerning loss of expertise.

Attracting more individuals to the R&D workforce, and offering greater career flexibility, should be a shared priority and requires careful consideration.

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Regulatory settings

Appropriate regulatory settings can provide certainty and thereby drive investment into innovation. A crucial feature of a fit-for-purpose regulatory environment is that regulation must be up-to-date and responsive to new and emerging technologies. A timely example is Australia's outdated and often inconsistent frameworks for biotechnology and emerging genetic technologies, with work currently being undertaken by Australian Government on proposed amendments to the *Gene Technology Act 2000* to update the National Gene Technology Scheme, and by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) through Proposal P1055 on definitions for gene technology and new breeding techniques. This is just one area where scientific advances have far outpaced the modernisation of Australia's regulatory settings. An inefficient and onerous regulatory environment can constrain private sector investment into R&D. An appropriate regulatory environment should strengthen the innovation pipeline from R&D through to commercialisation and uptake.

Key points:

- An inefficient and onerous regulatory environment can constrain private sector investment into R&D. An appropriate regulatory environment should strengthen the innovation pipeline from R&D through to commercialisation and uptake.

Issues for further consideration

Noting that one of Australia's National Science and Research Priorities is 'Elevating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems' (DISR 2024), and that the Discussion Paper states the Strategic Examination will consider how to better incorporate First Nations knowledge, knowledge systems and leadership into Australia's R&D system, the NFF supports the development of clear, balanced, and practical guidance for industry and R&D actors to appropriately approach, engage with, and access Indigenous knowledge when required. For further detail, please see the submission to the Strategic Examination from the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA).

The NFF also supports the Strategic Examination considering such matters as sovereign capabilities and sovereign risk in R&D and innovation, including in strengthening food security. The Strategic Examination should also consider how Australian agriculture can better improve uptake or translation of foreign R&D to the Australian system, an important aspect of the industry's R&D activities given the uniqueness of Australian agriculture's various production environments.

Given the unique challenges facing different commodities within Australian agriculture, and the varying R&D effectiveness or output across commodities, the NFF urges the Strategic Examination to give close consideration to the submissions of the NFF's members.

Conclusion

Agricultural research and development is fundamental to the ongoing success of the industry by driving productivity growth and ensuring Australia's food and fibre security. It delivers an excellent rate of return (ABARES states that for every $1 invested in agricultural R&D, there is an almost $8 return for farmers over 10 years) and spillover benefits for rural communities and Australian society.

The NFF strongly supports the RDC system, which facilitates valuable public-private collaboration and is world-leading in its linkages between industry and R&D exponents. Government co-investment in RDCs via matched funding with industry levies must be maintained at the present level at minimum.

RDCs are under increasing pressures due to multiple factors, from rising capital and labour costs to an increasingly unfavourable co-investment balance when collaborating with tertiary institutes, and the increasing need to perform extension and adoption activities following a reduction in such activities being undertaken by states and territories.

Declining public investment in agricultural R&D – from both the Australian Government and states and territories – is a key concern for the agricultural sector.

An immediate priority should be increasing public funding for agricultural R&D, to strengthen public-private collaboration and deliver enhanced outcomes for the industry and society at large. Such increased funding should support an increased focus on transformational and cross-sectoral outcomes, as well as align with shared priorities.

The Strategic Examination should also consider methods of supporting the R&D workforce, both in terms of size and capacity and improved career flexibility.

The NFF thanks the Department of Industry, Science and Resources' for the opportunity to contribute to this important Strategic Examination of Research and Development, and welcomes further discussion on the matter. The policy contact for this subject is Charlotte Wundersitz, General Manager – Rural Affairs via e-mail: cwundersitz@nff.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

TROY WILLIAMS
Chief Executive Officer

National Farmers Federation

Leading Australian Agriculture

NFF House
14-16 Brisbane Avenue
Barton ACT 2600

Locked Bag 9
Kingston ACT 2604

(02) 6269 5666
reception@nff.org.au
nff.org.au

National Farmers Federation
@NationalFarmers