

Commence with an apology from the Managing Director John Harvey he is on leave I have Acting Managing Director /Manager Corporate Louise Heaslip and General Manager Business Development Michael Beer

RIRDC has 13b Levied Industries and 8 Industry Panels

RIRDC was decentralised to Wagga Wagga and completed in December 2016

The Managing Director was appointed in May 2016 and I as Chair was appointed in August 2016

We developed a new five year plan that was fully focussed on our Levied industries and delivering a greater return on investment to our levy payers and beyond the farm gate.

Our 5 year plan concluded in June , some highlights of the 5 year plan delivery include bringing 3 new industries into the levy payer system being Export Fodder, T Tree and Thoroughbreds

Examples of some the success of our focus is in the following ;

- Consulted extensively on a name change including 7 regional innovation conversations across Australia
- A brand change to AgriFuture's Australia was the result of that consultation
- Conducted a review into the performance of Agrifuture's in the eyes of the levied industries and other stakeholders we represent resulting in a change to the way in which we listen, communicate and respond to the needs of our levy payers and industries
- Introduced the Emerging National Rural Industries process, designed for cross collaboration between RDC's with some 100 projects introduced.
- Established the Ignite Network for development of professionals interested in Agriculture
- Established the Levied Industry and Panel Chairs Forum to listen and learn from our industries and to establish connectivity between our panels and Levied Industries
- Revamped the Rural Women's Awards to now achieve sell out event celebrating amazing women, the revenue then being put to running a parallel program aimed at building capacity and confidence in women, in addition we established the Rural Womens Alumni program
- Developed an EXPO initiative to expose our innovation and technology being developed within Agriculture in Australia to investors and to those involved in production and associated with Agriculture Industries titled evokeAg
- delivered the inaugural evokeAg in Melbourne in 2019 with 1200 registered attendees including international Trade delegations, significant deal flow emanated from the evokeAg expo 2019 then in 2020 a sell out of 1400 registered attendees with significant international exposure to the international markets and further deal flow for startups in innovation along with initiatives like block chain technology for T Tree oil to assist in the protection from adulteration
- Developed an online platform to compliment evokeAg titled growAg designed as a global gateway to Australia's RDC and R&D it currently hosts 2500 projects with over 100 commercial opportunities
- The growAg platform has won the NINTEX Global Innovation Award and AgriFutures has just won a prestigious place in the Australian Financial Review Most Innovative Companies
- Introduced the Pilot Producers Uptake Program in order to support producer groups to trail and encourage adoption of technology solutions on farm

Our new plan 5 year plan 2022- 2027 was accepted by the Minister in August and is focussed on

Our Industries, Emerging Industries, Work Force and Leadership, National Challenges and Opportunities and Global Innovation Networks.

AgriFuture's undertook a significant consultation process on the next five year plan including a pre survey, 13 online workshops, a follow up survey all targeted at our levied industries and other associated stakeholders

I have made my decision to retire from AgriFuture's on December 9th proud that AgriFuture's Australia is a wonderful example of how Governments can deliver successful decentralisation and opportunities to regional Australia