



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

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Committee Secretary,
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee:

I wish to make a single point to your enquiry. It concerns the funding of honey bee and pollination research via the Rural Research and Development Corporation. The Committee will appreciate that research is a key mechanism by which the honey and pollination industries can remain competitive.

The honey bee program of RIRDC is funded via a levy collection on the sale of honey and by a matching contribution from the commonwealth. The combined funds create a budget of c.a. \$800,000 p.a. less a contribution towards administrative and levy collection costs.

I understand that at the direction of the Department of Agriculture, the board of RIRDC is considering charging full cost recovery for the management of its research programs. If fully implemented there is a danger that the administrative costs of RIRDC charged to the Honey Bee and Pollination programs will approach or even exceed the funds available for research. Clearly this would render programs non viable.

I ask that the Committee develop recommendations so that research in support of the honey bee and pollination industries can at least be maintained at current levels and preferably be expanded.

Yours sincerely,

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