



Ref: HCC/FH&S

RURAL INDUSTRIES RESEARCH
& DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



17 December 2003

Ms Kirsten Murray
Executive Officer
Rural and Regional Services
and Development Committee
Parliament of Victoria
Level 8, 35 Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Ms Murray

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY – DEATH AND INJURY ON VICTORIAN FARMS

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the above Inquiry. On behalf of RIRDC, I would like to respond specifically to Term of Reference 3 *Current programs and initiatives designed to improve occupational health and safety on Victorian farms.*

RIRDC manages the Joint Research Venture on Farm Health and Safety Research and Development on behalf of a number of partners. These partners include the Grains Research and Development Corporation, Meat and Livestock Australia, Australian Wool Innovation Ltd, Sugar Research and Development Corporation, Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Dairy Australia Limited and Horticulture Australia Limited.

The goal of the Joint Research Venture is to coordinate and support R&D to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate safe systems of work on farms across all rural industries. The objectives of the program are:

- To increase the adoption of safe systems of work on farms.
- To develop the information and systems to ensure the health and safety of persons transporting, handling, applying and otherwise affected by agricultural and veterinary chemicals.
- To complete on-farm safety management packages for all major commodities including horticultural industries and encourage their incorporation into broader farm management packages.
- To update and further develop training material and delivery modes more likely to be taken up by farmers.
- To maintain, support and utilise the collection of data on farm health and safety issues.

Shaping the Future



I am attaching the Five Year Plan and Summary brochure for your further information.


The program has produced many relevant publications which should assist you in your deliberations and I am sending some of these to you under separate cover. These include:

- *Occupational health and safety risks associated with horticultural produce production*
- *The health and safety of Australia's farming community*
- *Farm noise hazards: Noise emissions during common agricultural activities*
- *Noise exposure, hearing protection and noise injury in young adult farmers*
- *Farm Machinery Regulatory Review*
- *4th National farm injury prevention conference*
- *New ways of promoting farm health and safety*

At present we are actively researching *Incentives for Adoption of Safe Systems of Work on Farms*. I am attaching a recent issues paper on this topic, prepared for our project in this area by Dr Jenny Gordon of the Centre for International Economics. It was discussed this week at a Round Table of Industry and Insurance Companies. We are expecting the final report at the end of February.

I hope that this information assists in your deliberations

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roslyn', followed by a large, stylized flourish that loops back to the left and then extends to the right.

Dr Roslyn Prinsley
General Manager, Research