

22 June 2010

RDC Inquiry  
Productivity Commission  
LB2 Collins Street East  
MELBOURNE VIC 8003



## **The Rice Marketing Board**

FOR THE STATE OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES

### **RE: Inquiry into Rural Research and Development Corporations**

I am writing regarding the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Research and Development Corporations. The Rice Marketing Board for the State of NSW is a Statutory Corporation established under the Rice Marketing Act, 1983. The Board's objectives are:

- a) to encourage the development of a competitive domestic market for rice,
- b) to ensure the best possible returns from rice sold outside Australia based on the quality differentials or attributes of Australian grown rice, and
- c) to liaise with and represent the interests of all NSW rice growers in relation to the Board's functions and objects.

Membership of the Board consists of 4 Independent Members including an Independent Chair and three rice growers. The Rice Marketing Board has been integral to the Rice Industry in various forms since 1928

I am aware that the RiceGrowers Association are making a full and comprehensive submission on behalf of rice growers. However, given the critical importance of research and development to the outstanding and continued success of the Rice Industry, the Board wishes to support and reinforce the continuation of the current model for rice industry research and development.

There are many areas of research and development that are so important to the Rice Industry's success, and I would like to highlight three of these.

1. The water use efficiency programmes. Managed through the Environment Champions Programme has been extremely effective in developing sustainable production systems that affords environment protection.
2. The rice breeding programme that has developed unique varieties for the Riverina and has given Australia a world competitive edge in marketing, highlighted this year by world record yields of quality rice that is unique and can only be grown in Australia and supplied to the world market.

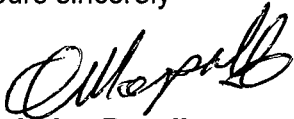
3. The development of a production blue print "Rice Check" for growers that incorporates all elements of leading edge technology from the research and development programmes that is used by all growers in the Industry and is the key to sustainable yield performances.

The importance of a successful rice industry to regional productivity has been highlighted by the devastating impact of the drought on the economy in the Riverina. In a normal season the Rice Industry contributes 21% of regional income and 18% of total regional employment.

The partnerships and the management model for the delivery of the highly successful research and development programmes must be maintained. The Board is of the view that the current model of funding through the Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation is appropriate for an industry with such intensive inputs and production techniques. The Board does not support any proposal to incorporate rice research in the broader research and development funding structures.

The relationship the Rice Industry has with its current research partner, the Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation and research providers, such as Industry and Investment NSW have been an extremely productive one and the Board sees no reason to change.

Yours sincerely



**Nicholas Papallo**  
Chairman