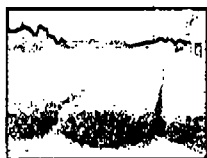


AUSTRALIAN GREEN TEA PTY LIMITED



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6th July 2010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Productivity Commission concerning the Rural Research & Development Corporations.

Australian Green Tea Pty Limited is a wholly Australian owned company that is seeking to foster & promote the development of the new & emerging Australian Green Tea Industry.

Whilst our company is not directly supported financially by any of the RDS's, we interact very closely with the RIRDC and collaborate with other institutes which are funded by RIRDC and/or HAL.

It is very clear to us that there should be more funding made available to RDC's to continue to grow our rural sector, particularly in the areas of new & emerging industries. Current funding is shared primarily amongst those industries which can demonstrate dollar-for-dollar type funding arrangements. However with new startup industries, such as Green Tea, where there is currently no levy, the success of the industry may require up-front funding for comprehensive feasibility studies.

Serious & immediate attention must be given to this aspect of funding for emerging industries, if the real intention is for them to not only survive but to grow & prosper. The current Government, both at State & Federal levels, should be looking to expand current funding for Rural R&D. Development of regional Australia also provides a mechanism by which people can be encouraged to move to regional areas & away from the major cities. Decision makers cannot look at Rural R&D without taking into consideration the wider community benefits which are to be gained from creating & maintaining a strong & prosperous rural Australia.

In conclusion, I see it as imperative that Australia continues to look forward and take positive steps to support ongoing rural R&D, particularly in up-front financial support of those who are prepared to blaze a trail for potential new & emerging industries. If we turn our backs on this vital aspect of rural development, it will result in both social and economic losses for all Australians.

We would strongly urge the Productivity Commission to support increases in publicly funded R&D for new and emerging rural industries, particularly through ongoing support & funding to the RIRDC.

Yours Faithfully

John Robb
Director.