

SUBMISSION TO THE CHAIR RURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INQUIRY

I make this brief submission having read the draft report on Rural Research and Development.

1. Examples of references in the report to the Development side of this equation include:

What is rural R and D Page 1

Extension arrangements Page 19

RDC Involvement in extension activity Page 72

Taken overall, however there is little emphasis on the function of extension/outreach/communication and yet this is the mandatory follow-on commitment for all rural research.

2. Execution of the function is often administratively chancey. Importantly, it always comes at a cost. This particular matter is ignored in the draft report.

3. Twenty five years ago, this author (then at the University of Sydney and Dr BE Kearl, Vice Chancellor at the University of Wisconsin, USA) pointed out these salient facts to ACIAR.

It was agreed each future research proposal should specify a percentage of costs assigned to this function once the research had been completed. At all times the search should be on for the presentation of this information in appropriate ways.

4. In another context I have proposed that the emergent NBN could have a role to play in the future in Agribusiness.

I would like to see these matters be discussed in the final report.

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