

Thank you for inviting me to comment on matters covered by your inquiry:

The industry structures and systems governing the imposition of and disbursement of marketing and research and development (R&D) levies in the agricultural sector, with particular reference to:

- a. an audit of reports, inquiries and reviews relevant to this inquiry;  
*N/A*
- b. the basis on which levies are imposed, collected and used;  
*The collection process is efficient. The mechanism in which levies have been imposed has been consultative and fair.  
The way the levies have been used is questionable.*
- c. competing pressures for finite R&D funds;  
*N/A*
- d. the opportunities levy payers have to influence the investment of the levies;  
*It is my view that levy payers have little or no input as to the use of levies. The levies are now locked up in the RIRDC and are controlled by rules set by bureaucrats that do not reflect the needs of the industry; neither the producers nor the industry's representative body.*
- e. the opportunities levy payers have to approve and reapprove the imposition of levies;  
*There doesn't seem to be any formal consultation with the industry or clear path of communication to be included in these processes.*
- f. the transformation of R&D and marketing into increased returns at the farm gate, including the effectiveness of extension systems;  
*The use of industry funds should include marketing, industry development and extension systems. At present funds can only be used for purely research, this is restrictive and doesn't help with industry growth and development.*
- g. collaboration on research to benefit multiple industry and research sectors;  
*N/A*
- h. industry governance arrangements, consultation and reporting frameworks; and any other related matter.  
*The only comment on this point is that communication with the levy body and the industry is ineffective and not consultative. Our industry doesn't have a clear voice or any power to influence outcomes or use of our levy funds.*

Regards

Mark Huisman  
President  
WA Deer Industry Association