



The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP

**Minister for Agriculture
Federal Member for New England**

Ref: MS15-000693

Ms Kareena Arthy
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
PO Box 6182
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Ms Arthy *Kareena*,

Further to my letter of 22 July 2014, thank you for your advice about the possible relocation of the APVMA outside the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Relocating the APVMA to a regional area would demonstrate the Australian Government's commitment to boosting jobs growth and strengthening communities across Australia. It would also reinforce the link between the regulators of agricultural and veterinary chemicals and the agricultural communities who use the chemicals. No amount of communication can beat the understanding that comes from living and working in the communities we ultimately serve.

My preference is that the APVMA move to either Armidale or Toowoomba.

Armidale would provide an opportunity for closer collaboration with the University of New England (UNE) which has a longstanding pre-eminence in a number of agricultural related disciplines. It is also engaged in research in agricultural sciences and offers tertiary courses in rural medicine and science, including agriculture, plant, animal and general science subjects. There has been renewed investment over the past several years in UNE's research facilities, such as the UNE 'SMART Farm' for precision agriculture.

Toowoomba would provide an opportunity for closer collaboration with the University of Southern Queensland, and the Gatton campus of the University of Queensland. The Gatton campus is a leading research provider in the field of agricultural and veterinary science, with a range of new and advanced facilities, including a Wind Tunnel Research Facility for spray drift studies. The campus also hosts one of the best veterinary schools in the country.

As I said in my letter last year, no final decision will be made without consultation. I ask that you talk to your staff and stakeholders about the proposed relocation. I have also written to the University of New England, the University of Queensland and the University of Southern Queensland, seeking relevant information about the merits of their university as a potential location for the APVMA. I have asked them to respond as soon as possible as their advice

will help us in the final decision. I am also aware of the Council of Australian Governments review and the consideration of a potential merger between the APVMA and the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme. Clearly we will be cognisant of this as we work through this together.

Subject to the advice from the universities, please advise me by the end of July 2015 if your agency is willing to relocate, and if so, which location would best suit your needs. This may seem like a short amount of time for such a significant decision but as you know, we have been discussing this since July last year. I am sure we would all like to settle this as soon as we can to give your staff and stakeholders certainty. We can then work to develop fully costed proposals for government's consideration, including investigating suitable accommodation. As the APVMA is a cost-recovered agency, I will need to find offsets from within my portfolio to fund the move.

I have written to Croplife, the Veterinary Manufacturers and Distributors Association, Animal Medicines Australia, the National Farmers' Federation and the NSW Farmers' Association about the proposal to assist you in your consultations.

Yours sincerely

Barnaby Joyce MP

12 MAY 2015



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Federal Member for New England

Ref: MS15-000693

The Hon. Harry Woods
Chair
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
Locked Bag 222
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2604

Dear Mr Woods

Further to my letter of 22 July 2014, thank you for FRDC's advice about its possible relocation outside the Australian Capital Territory.

Relocating FRDC outside of Canberra would demonstrate the Australian Government's commitment to boosting jobs growth and strengthening communities across Australia. It would also reinforce that our rural research and development corporations serve the communities that largely fund them. No amount of communication can beat the understanding that comes from living and working in the communities we serve.

My preference is that FRDC move to Hobart. This could provide an opportunity for closer collaboration with the University of Tasmania, which hosts the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies. In addition, the Antarctic Division of the Department of the Environment and the headquarters of the Marine and Atmospheric Research Division of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) are located in Hobart, thereby creating a hub of fisheries and marine research.

Hobart is the main fishing port for Tasmania and the region hosts several Commonwealth fisheries including the Commonwealth Trawl Sector and the Shark Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. In addition, aquaculture production in Tasmania has tripled in real value terms, reaching \$520 million in 2012-13, representing around 75 per cent of the state's fisheries production.

Relocation to Hobart will need to be paid for by FRDC. We would need to settle exact costs but I understand it could cost about \$4 million. This is just 1.6 per cent of the last 10 years of FRDC's research project expenditure. For me, this is a small price to pay for the longer-term benefits that would come from relocation.

As I said in my letter last year, no final decision will be made without consultation. I ask that you talk to your staff and stakeholders about the proposed relocation.

I welcome suggestions on another possible location outside of Canberra, provided it meets the criteria of being close to the industries you serve and a regional university that has a strong fisheries focus.

I am also willing to consider co-location options with other rural research and development corporations or research organisations where cost savings can be achieved.

Please advise me by the end of June, if not sooner if your agency is willing to relocate, and if so, which location would best suit your needs. This may seem like a short amount of time for such a significant decision but as you know, we have been discussing this since July last year. I am sure we would all like to settle this as soon as we can to give your staff and stakeholders certainty. My department can then work with you to develop fully costed proposals for government's consideration. I expect a final decision on FRDC's possible relocation to be announced within six months.

I have provided a copy of this letter to FRDC's representative bodies – the National Aquaculture Council, the Commonwealth Fisheries Association, the National Seafood Industry Alliance and the Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Confederation to assist with your consultation process.

Yours sincerely

Barnaby Joyce MP

12 MAY 2015



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**Minister for Agriculture
Federal Member for New England**

Ref: MS15-000693

Mr Richard Clark
Chair
Grains Research and Development Corporation
PO Box 5367
KINGSTON ACT 2600

Dear Mr Clark

Further to my letter of 22 July 2014, thank you for GRDC's advice about its possible relocation outside the Australian Capital Territory.

Relocating GRDC to a regional area would demonstrate the Australian Government's commitment to boosting jobs growth and strengthening communities across Australia. It would also reinforce that our rural research and development corporations serve the communities that largely fund them. No amount of communication can beat the understanding that comes from living and working in the communities we serve.

My preference is that GRDC move to Wagga Wagga. This could provide an opportunity for closer collaboration with Charles Sturt University (CSU). The CSU campus at Wagga Wagga provides a range of courses in agricultural science and is also home to a rural research centre, the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, of which the GRDC is a sponsor. Wagga Wagga also has an office of the NSW Department of Primary Industries, a significant provider of R&D activities, and Australian Grain Technologies, Australia's largest wheat breeding company which established a field operation in the area in 2013-14.

The Riverina offers GRDC close contact with many industries including the wheat, canola, maize and sorghum industries which all contribute to the region's agricultural production.

Relocation to Wagga Wagga will need to be paid for by GRDC. We would need to settle exact costs once the location is finalised but I understand estimates are that it could cost about \$31.2 million. This is just 2.3 per cent of the last 10 years of GRDC's research project expenditure. I am advised the cost is largely a result of the assumption that if GRDC breaks its lease prior to its expiry in 2024, it would be liable to pay the remaining lease amount if a tenant is not identified.

However, on the basis that the existing premises are new and located in a prestige part of Canberra, I am confident this situation is unlikely to arise and the eventual costs of relocation will be considerably less. Such costs are also likely to be offset by lower operating costs in a regional centre over the longer term and I believe they will be a small price to pay for the benefits that would come from relocation.

As I said in my letter last year, no final decision will be made without consultation. I ask that you talk to your staff and stakeholders about the proposed relocation.

I welcome suggestions on another possible location outside of Canberra, provided it meets the criteria of being close to one of the industries you serve and a regional university that has a strong agricultural focus. I am also willing to consider co-location options with other rural research and development corporations or research organisations where cost savings can be achieved.

Please advise me by the end of June, if not sooner if your agency is willing to relocate, and if so, which location would best suit your needs. This may seem like a short amount of time for such a significant decision but as you know, we have been discussing this since July last year. I am sure we would all like to settle this as soon as we can to give your staff and stakeholders certainty. My department can then work with you to develop fully costed proposals for government's consideration. I expect a final decision on GRDC's possible relocation to be announced within six months.

I have provided a copy of this letter to Grain Producers Australia, Grain Growers Limited, the National Farmers' Federation and the NSW Farmers' Association to assist with your consultation process.

Yours sincerely

Barnaby Joyce MP

12 MAY 2015



The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP

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Federal Member for New England

Ref: MS15-000693

Professor Daniela Stehlik
Chair
Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
PO Box 4776
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Professor Stehlik

Further to my letter of 22 July 2014, thank you for RIRDC's advice about its possible relocation outside the Australian Capital Territory.

Relocating RIRDC to a regional area would demonstrate the Australian Government's commitment to boosting jobs growth and strengthening communities across Australia. It would also reinforce that our rural research and development corporations serve the communities that largely fund them. No amount of communication can beat the understanding that comes from living and working in the communities we serve.

My preference is that RIRDC move to Albury-Wodonga. This could provide an opportunity for closer collaboration with Charles Sturt University, including its Institute for Land, Water and Society. Albury-Wodonga is also home to La Trobe University's Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre and is reasonably close to RIRDC's only geographically concentrated industry, the rice industry in the Riverina. The Riverina produced 49 per cent of New South Wales' rice production in 2012-13, and totalled seven per cent of all agricultural production in the region.

Relocation to Albury-Wodonga will need to be paid for by RIRDC. We would need to settle exact costs but I understand it could cost about \$2.5 million. I know there will be concerns over using research and development funds to pay for the move, but at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million, this is just 1.3 per cent of the last 10 years of RIRDC's research project expenditure. For me, this is a small price to pay for the longer-term benefits that would come from relocation.

As I said in my letter last year, no final decision will be made without consultation. I ask that you talk to your staff and stakeholders about the proposed relocation. I welcome suggestions on another possible location outside of Canberra, provided it meets the criteria of being close to one of the industries you serve and a regional university that has a strong agricultural focus. I am also willing to consider co-location options with other rural research and development corporations or research organisations where cost savings can be achieved.

Please advise me by the end of June, if not sooner if your agency is willing to relocate, and if so, which location would best suit your needs. This may seem like a short amount of time for such a significant decision but as you know, we have been discussing this since July last year. I am sure we would all like to settle this as soon as we can to give your staff and stakeholders certainty. My department can then work with you to develop fully costed proposals for government's consideration. I expect a final decision on RIRDC's possible relocation to be announced within six months.

I have provided a copy of this letter to the National Farmers Federation, the Australian Chicken Meat Federation, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, the Rice Growers Association of Australia, Sunrice and the Rice Marketing Board for New South Wales as RIRDC's declared representative bodies and/or industry bodies, and the NSW Farmers' Association to assist with your consultation process.

Yours sincerely

Barnaby Joyce MP

12 MAY 2015