

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY***Chair: The Hon Dick Adams MP**Deputy Chair: Alby Schultz MP*

Inquiry into the Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Bill 2012

## Committee encourages cross-sectoral collaboration in rural R&D sector

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee today released its report into the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Annual Report 2011-12. The committee's report focussed on several themes including: governance and cross-sectoral collaboration; smaller industries and innovation; regional development; and evaluation of projects.

The committee's report highlights the ongoing need for better cross-sectoral collaboration, including making the most of the National Primary Industries Research, Development & Extension Framework (NPIRDEF). Committee Chair, Dick Adams MP said: "Following the Framework's 2012 review, the committee recommends a timely and public response from the Australian Government addressing its findings. In particular a response should clarify the RIRDC's mandate".

Evidence to the committee suggested that support, such as access to publicly funded laboratories provided on an 'in-kind' basis by state governments to smaller, innovative industries has diminished. The committee has recommended that the Australian Government work with state and territory Governments to ensure their contribution to the national research effort remains proportional to the Australian Government's response.

The committee recommended that the RIRDC continue the practice of evaluation and include more of these through future annual reports. The committee also recommended that the Australian Government complete the development of a proposed common evaluation methodology to be used by rural Research and Development Corporations, and that once developed, it be adopted by the RIRDC.

A copy of the Committee's report may be downloaded from its website:

[www.aph.gov.au/arff](http://www.aph.gov.au/arff)

**For media comment:** please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Dick Adams MP, on (03) 6398 1115 or 0418 132 828 or email [D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au)

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