



**Australian Chicken Meat
Federation (ACMF) Inc**

20 May 2015

Professor Daniela Stehlik
Chair, Rural Industries R&D Corporation
PO Box 4776
Kingston ACT 2604

Dear Daniela,

Thank you for your letter dated 15 May 2015 which sets out the current situation regarding the proposed relocation of RDCs. We note with concern that the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Barnaby Joyce, MP in his letter of 12 May 2015 reaffirms his commitment to see RIRDC relocate to Albury-Wodonga and is proposing a tight timeline for decisions to be taken.

You are seeking our views as an industry with close and long-standing involvement with RIRDC. As you may recall, we have made our strong opposition to moving RIRDC out of Canberra known to Minister Joyce. In particular, in a letter dated 12 December 2014, I wrote inter alia:

“... we feel compelled to bring to your attention our strong opposition to any such proposal to move RIRDC’s offices away from its current base in Canberra. Our position is based on the fact that such a move would lead to inefficiencies and less effective interactions with researchers, industry and other RDCs, the exact opposite of what the proposal is meant to achieve.”

This remains our position. As one of the major industry sectors partnering with RIRDC, we are convinced that moving RIRDC to Albury-Wodonga or another regional location would be of absolutely no benefit to us and indeed would bring with it significant downsides in terms of our ease of access to RIRDC, availability and retention of qualified staff and reduced opportunities for collaboration and integration of some of the back-office functions with other RDCs as is already happening.

On behalf of ACMF and the Australian chicken meat industry which we represent, I urge you and your Board to stand firm while exploring other collaborative initiatives that may provide administrative efficiencies. In our view, it is essential to recognize RIRDC’s unique role as the RDC responsible for supporting multi-industry, cross-sectoral and national interest R&D for rural industries. This overarching role and the fact that RIRDC directly services a great many agricultural sectors with a diverse geographical distribution make its location in Canberra clearly the best and most logical option.

ACMF fully supports your Board's position and stands ready to assist in presenting what we believe are compelling arguments directly to the Minister or others who you may feel would benefit from our industry perspective.

Yours sincerely



Alan Wilson
President

30 Mar 2012

Professor Daniel Smith
Chief, Rural Industry R&D Committee
PO Box 4778
Kingston ACT 2604

Dear Daniel,

Thank you for your letter dated 10 May 2011 which sets out the current situation regarding the proposed relocation of RIRDC. We note with concern that the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. Bruce. Joyce, MP, in his letter of 12 May 2011 maintains his commitment to the RIRDC relocate to Albany-Woodage and is preparing a tight timeline for decisions to be taken.

You are seeking our views on our industry with some and long-standing involvement with RIRDC. As you may recall, we have made our strong opposition to moving RIRDC out of Canberra known to Minister Joyce. In particular, in a letter dated 11 December 2011, we made it clear:

... we feel compelled to bring to your attention our strong opposition in any such proposal to move RIRDC's offices away from its current base in Canberra. Our position is based on the fact that such a move would lead to inefficiencies and less effective interactions with researchers, industry and other RIRDC stakeholders. Opposite of what the proposal is meant to achieve.

This remains our position. As one of the major industry sector partners with RIRDC, we are concerned that moving RIRDC to Albany-Woodage or another regional location would be disadvantageous to Canberra in its and indeed would harm the industry. We are therefore in favour of the move to Albany-Woodage, especially in light of the fact that the relocation of RIRDC to Albany-Woodage would be a significant loss to Canberra and the industry.

On behalf of ACMF and the Australian chicken meat industry which we represent, I urge you and your Board to stand firm while excluding other options and to ensure that you provide administrative effectiveness. In our view it is essential to ensure RIRDC's unique role as the RBC research for agricultural machinery, crop sector and national research R&D for rural industries. The overarching role and the fact that RIRDC directly services a great many regional centres with a diverse geographical distribution make the location in Canberra clearly the best and most logical option.