

National RD&E Strategy for Fishing and Aquaculture

Boosting profitability, productivity and sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture through highly efficient and collaborative RD&E services

Communiqué 5 5th May 2010

This communiqué informs stakeholders on:

- Approval for *Working Together: The National RD&E Strategy for Fishing and Aquaculture* (the Strategy)
- Next steps toward implementation of the Strategy

Approval

The final draft of the Strategy document was endorsed by Ministers at Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) on the 23rd April. This national strategy establishes the future direction to improve the focus, efficiency and effectiveness of RD&E to support Australia's fishing and aquaculture industry.

In the lead up to approval, the draft strategy was recommended by the Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC) and endorsed by all State Governments, DAFF, CSIRO and AFMA. Industry peak bodies - the Commonwealth Fisheries Association, National Aquaculture Council, and Recfishing Australia - and the National Seafood Industry Alliance, provided endorsement with comments highlighting important issues that will be worked through as part of the Strategy's implementation.

Beef, Sheep Meat, Poultry, and Forest & Wood Products RD&E Strategies were also endorsed at the same meeting and the feedback is that Ministers are extremely happy with the entire process of developing a national framework for primary industries RD&E.

Implementation

The hard work has of course not ended, and endorsement of the Strategy may well be considered the beginning.

The Strategy document will now be readied for publication and transition arrangements will commence to move responsibility from the working group to the new National Priorities Forum that will be charged with the Strategy's implementation.

This forum will bring together government and industry to lead the implementation of the strategy. This high level stakeholder partnership will report to Primary Industries Standing Committee, will be responsible for delivering the planned outcomes of the strategy, and ensuring it remains relevant to stakeholders. It is anticipated that the first meeting of this group will occur in the next two months. In the lead up to this meeting the working group will seek nominations for an independent Chair.

Also in development are a national research providers' network, and a national extension network. These groups will work closely with each other, and the priorities forum. CSIRO will chair the research providers' network in the first year.

At the whole of primary industry sector level, the R&D subcommittee of PISC will continue working on cross-over issues such as intellectual property, national research access, and extension.

Regular communiqués and website updates will continue to keep stakeholders informed of developments.

Accessing the National RD&E Strategy for Fishing and Aquaculture

The PIMC approved draft of *Working Together: The National RD&E Strategy for Fishing and Aquaculture* is available for download at: www.frdc.com.au/research/national-framework

Further information: Email jo-anne.rusco@frdc.com.au
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www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/innovation/national-primary-industries