

9 April 2007

Mr Roger Beale
Chairman
Quarantine and Biosecurity Review Panel
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

**QUARANTINE AND BIOSECURITY REVIEW
DISCUSSION PAPER – SECURING THE BIOSECURITY OF NEW
INDUSTRIES IN AUSTRALIA’S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.**

Dear Mr Beale

I refer to the invitation for submissions on the Quarantine and Biosecurity Review. The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation’s (RIRDC’s) Submission is attached. It seeks to alert the Review Panel to the importance of new and emerging industries to Australia’s rural and regional development and the need to maintain and strengthen the necessary research and information support infrastructure to minimise the biosecurity and quarantine risks that are inherent in the development of new industries.

While the development of new industries provides significant economic opportunities for agricultural Australia and yields some valuable science and lessons for the further development of established industries, it also poses significant risks to Australia’s biosecurity and its good-standing as a producer/exporter of clean and green produce. As well as direct risks such as the introduction of a pest or pathogen that may directly affect established industries, an adverse biosecurity/contamination issue within one of these new industries has the potential to cause significant damage to Australia’s reputation, seriously affecting trade in our more main-stream commodities. RIRDC would like to continue playing a leading role in providing support to this sector to help minimise the risk of quarantine and biosecurity incidents.

Yours sincerely

Peter O’Brien
Managing Director