



## GrainGrowers Policy Position- RD&E

***GrainGrowers understand the future demand that will be placed on industry productivity, resulting in the need for a structured and valuable innovation strategy for the Australian grains industry that meets these demands***

### **Background**

For more than 25 years, the Australian Government and primary producers have co-invested in agricultural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) to deliver research and development (R&D) and marketing services for industry and community benefits.

Driving the productivity growth of Australian agriculture has been a long-term commitment by government and industry to Research, Development and Extension (RD&E). ABARES analysis has found that Australian public R&D directly accounted for nearly one third of the productivity growth experienced in Australia's broadacre farming sector between 1952–53 and 2006–07.

In the grains industry, the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) is the major RD&E service provider. The GRDC received total revenue of \$209.1m in 2013-14, including \$120.2m in grower levies and \$68.6m from the federal government to support the corporation's research work across 25 different grain crops.

GRDC has helped the continual shift of the technological frontier in Australia and provided farmers with the tools to enhance their productivity. Successive governments and levy payers have continued to support the Rural Research and Development Corporation system, recognising the important benefits delivered for farmers, their communities and the broader Australian economy.

### **Our Position**

GrainGrowers understand the future demand that will be placed on industry productivity, resulting in the need for a structured and valuable innovation strategy for the Australian grains industry that meets these demands. In addition, producers see the need for greater emphasis on measuring adoption of R&D to ensure optimum productivity and profitability return on-farm.

Underpinning grains RD&E, it is imperative that government remains committed to the co-contribution architecture of the rural research and development corporation system.

Gains from improvements in competitiveness and productivity in production are shared between all Australian grain growers but also with operators further along the supply chain including traders, handlers, marketers and exporters. Grain farmers recognise that investment in the prosperity of the sector must be a collaborative effort including the government and those further along the supply chain.

Whilst the work of GRDC remains crucial to the industry and retains high grower support GrainGrowers believes it is also vital that the industry continues to forge new partnerships with government, the private sector and research institutes/universities to ensure our grains industry is at the cutting edge of research and innovation.