

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit programme.



## EXPERT PANEL FORMED

An expert panel has been convened to foster critical reflection throughout the *Stimulating private sector extension in Australian agriculture to increase returns from R&D* project.

Stimulating private sector extension is a three-year project to research, develop and test models to build the capacity of the commercial and private sector in delivering extension services to Australian farmers.

It has been funded by the Australian Government, and supported by rural RDCs, the Victorian and NSW governments, and the University of Melbourne, which is also heading the research component.

Project Manager Ian Linley said the expert panel would diagnose and provide comment on approaches to cross-sector extension, and on the development of models to build private sector capacity.

"We see the panel as a thought leadership group, consisting of Australian and international leaders in the field of extension and agricultural innovation," Mr Linley said.

"We are thrilled with the breadth of skills and experiences of the panel-members and they are effectively informing the research, directions and evaluation of the project."

Members are:

- Ass Prof Laurens Klerkx, Wageningen University, Netherlands (Agricultural policy, systems, communications);
- Mick Keogh, Executive Director Australian Farm Institute & Chairman, National Rural Advisory Council, Agricultural Commissioner ACCC (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission);
- Dr Mark Paine, DairyNZ, Wellington (Strategy and Investment Leader, Business and People, DairyNZ);
- Ass Prof Ruth Nettle, Melbourne University (leader Rural Innovation Research Group, Melbourne University);
- Richard Price, Director, Twinbrook Pty Ltd; ex CEO of Kondinin Group and Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre. Nuffield Scholar;
- Dr Jeff Coutts, extension and measurement & evaluation (private consultant);
- Steve Coats, (expert panel convener) Private and public career in dairy extension and communication. Board Member DairyBio and principal Curlew Connections Pty Ltd.

## ENDS

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