A national RD&E Strategy
Is it desirable and/or achievable

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The dairy industry has faced many external challenges,

- Difficult economic conditions
- Trade barriers
- Deregulation
- Droughts and floods
Dairy farmers “terms of trade” have declined.
Remarkably, industry has doubled production over the last 30 years,
by increasing milk yield both per cow and per hectare,
with the same number of cows and less land,
but this has required adjustment to achieve “economies of scale”.

less than half the farmers and double the average farm and herd size
New products and processing has increased demand and efficiency.

- Butter → Cheese and Powders
- Cream cheese
- Whey powder
- UHT milk processing, automated cheese making and powder drying
- Transport and refrigeration
Success has been built on many factors

- Increasing productivity and quality
- Leadership within industry and skill development
- Innovation by farmers and others across the supply chain
- Long term investment in R&D and extension
- Adapting of technology from overseas
Research Development & Extension’s (R,D&E) contribution is significant

– On Farm R,D&E
– Estimated 46% contribution to increase in production
– Benefit Cost Ratio of 3.3:1

![Graph showing the investment in different sectors over the years, with a total investment of approximately $180 million in 2010 dollars by 2006-2007. The graph includes categories for On farm, Manufacturing, Economics, marketing and education.]
in increasing farm production especially in the areas of:

- Production & utilisation of pastures
- Supplementary feeding
- Cow breeding & genetics
- Milk harvesting
- Farm Business Management
and helping industry to meet consumer and community expectations.

- Milk quality & Animal Health
- Effluent and Natural Resource management
- Animal Welfare
however with pressures on resources (funding and people) a new collaborative approach was required......
National Primary Industries Research, Development and Extension Framework

devlopment of a more collaborative model for innovation for Australia
Benefits of the framework?

- Cooperation; cross borders
- Information sharing
- Funding
- Access to capability
- Reporting
What does it mean for Dairy?

The lead PISC agency for the Australian dairy industry is the DPIV.

Supported by Dairy Australia and Australian Dairy Farmers, an industry strategy is being developed to embrace the national framework.
The industry agreed on five key areas of future investment for pre farm gate R,D&E.
DMF Steering Committee
Chaired by ADF/ADIC with senior representation from:
Dairy Moving Forward Structure

DMF Steering Committee

Reference Groups

Program Champion (NRM)
Community of Interest

Program Champion (Animals)
Community of Interest

Program Champion (Feedbase)
Community of Interest

Program Champion (People)
Community of Interest

Program Champion (Business Mgt)
Community of Interest
Achievements to Date

- Agreed National R&D Strategies/Priorities
- Teamwork and Collaborative Culture
- Resources Aligned to Strategies
- Better Co-ordinated Efforts for Funding
- Reduction of Duplication
- Performance Targets Agreed by Program Areas
- Flexible Arrangements to address Farm Practice Change/Extension
Current research facilities
Dairy Extension by State
Extension/Farm Practice Change – Core Elements

- Regional Develop Program – each region
- Flexibility in approach
- Co-investment model preferred
- Private/Public/VET/Co-contribution
- National “Development”/Technical Specialists
- Regional Farm Practice Change Co-ordinators
- Opportunities for new technologies
- Graduate program
Future

- Further Develop Extension/Innovation model – Private/Public/VET/Co-contribution
- Power of gene technologies - animals
  - plants
  - pests/diseases
  - human health
- Precision farming
- Whole of Chain
- International and Cross Sector Collaboration opportunities
- Focus on future capability
A national approach will improve efficiency and effectiveness

- National Research
- Regional Development
- Local Extension