University Agricultural Research & Government Research Organisations

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Sheep CRC
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Trends towards co-location & cooperation

- NSW DPI – UNE and CSU
- SARDI - University of Adelaide
- Tasmania Institute for Agriculture - UTAS
- DPI Vic – Monash and Uni Melb
- QDPI - UQ

......University and culture winning
Agricultural R,D & E Funding
(total $1.6bn)

- Commonwealth 'rural', 256
- Industry levies, 247
- Govt matching industry, 218
-CSIRO, 100
- State Govt Agriculture RD&E, 779
Agenda for state departments?

- Rural RDC – priorities and project funding
  - Three-year projects
- Political cycle (sets quantum and structure)
- Existing expertise and skill set
- Alliances - industry groups & universities
- National RD & E framework
- Commonwealth initiatives
  - Climate change
  - Live export
Commonwealth research funding ‘pie’ (total $1.9 bn)
What shapes university research?

- Research student load & completion
- Research income
  - Category 1 – competitive grants
  - Category 2 – Other public sector funds
  - Category 3 – Industry and other
  - Category 4 - CRCs
- Research publications
  - Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)
  - More publications
  - High impact citation – academic ex
Excellence in Research (universities)

Adapted from Aidan Byrne, ARC, 2013

- $$$ research income
- Equipment
- Salaries
- Research Papers and patents
- New Govt policy
- New technology used by industry
- Collaboration with industry
- ERA
Three types of university research

Adapted from Aidan Byrne, ARC, 2013

1. Some small grants
   Good academic research

2. Some good PhD students
   Occasional impact

3. Industry connection
   Good PhD students
   Sustainable team
Normal university research model

- Academic freedom and luxury to ‘collaborate with yourself’
- Teaching commitments
- Sabbatical leave and postgraduates in three year cycles
- Industry collaboration seen as too applied and of low academic standing
- University research and IP management normally conservative and risk averse
Good university team & industry links

- Outstanding individual leadership
- Takes time to develop….  
  - Research reputation
  - Funding
  - Good postgraduate students
- Risks and issues
  - Lack of succession planning
  - Promotion of team leader
The National R,D and E strategy – budget of around $1.6 bn ($0.47m RDCs)

- 14 sectors – includes separate wool & sheep meat sectors
- 8 cross-sector groups
- Multiple organisations –
  - 14 in original PISC group, 15 Rural RDCs
  - Industry peak bodies
  - Individual universities
  - Registered training organisations
  - Industry bodies such as Animal Health Australia, AWEX and AWTA
- No recommendations for multi-organisational structures
- Underestimation of the need and cost of coordination
  - Governance, administration and leadership
Issues

- Contracts through RDCs - individual organisations
  - ‘Business as usual’
  - Duplication of management within each organisation
  - Risks of things falling through the cracks (parasitology)
  - Poor succession planning

- Underestimation need & cost of coordination
  - Governance, administration and leadership
  - Policies for managing IP and licensing

- Need CRC-like structures for major opportunities/problems
  - Fixed term, defined responsibilities
  - Regular review and reporting
Suggestions for the future

- Make the National RD & E framework effective
  - Adequate resources for coordination & leadership
  - Structure for setting strategic direction
  - Longer-term strategies – with real accountability
  - Look seriously at CRC model

- Create incentives for university participation
  - CRC and other industry funding – Category 1
    - Improve quality and impact at National RD&E level
    - Get ARC over its prejudices
  - Include impact in ERA system

- Genuine engagement with real end-users
  - Long-term development of trust and respect