

Compendium of Sustainable Agriculture Programs, Activities and References

**Australian Landcare Council
August 2004**



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1. Introduction

This compendium has been prepared for the Australian Landcare Council as a resource document to inform the work of its Agricultural Sustainability Working Group on the range of government and industry programs and activities in supporting the development and adoption of more sustainable agriculture production systems. Accordingly, it focuses on programs and activities of governments and related agencies and industry corporations. It does not cover the wide range of activities undertaken by agribusiness industries providing commercial services to the farm sector. Similarly it deals only briefly with the activities of non-government organisations active in the field of nature and biodiversity conservation.

It is hoped that the Compendium will also prove to be a useful resource for landholders and land managers as well as those involved in the landcare network.

Please note that the compendium is intended to provide an introduction and overview guide to the wide range of programs and activities of governments and related agencies and industry corporations promoting the development and adoption of more sustainable agriculture agricultural production systems. It is beyond the capacity of a document of this nature to describe in detail the elements of the individual programs, how farmers and/or land managers might access them, or their merit/applicability. For this reason, and to ensure the information is current, it is recommended that readers explore their individual interests by accessing the web sites referenced in the compendium.

The information contained in this document has been sourced from the web sites of the organisations included in the compendium. Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in the compendium is up to-date at the time of its preparation (Mid 2004).

2. International Organisations

2.1 United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

The FAO is the lead United Nations agency for agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development with a focus on the alleviation of hunger and poverty through promoting the sustainable development of rural primary industries.

It provides a neutral international forum to consider a wide range of issues associated with the sustainable development, utilisation and trade of agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry products, and implements programs which are aimed at improving agricultural productivity, alleviating poverty and raising levels of nutrition of rural populations.

The FAO also collects and maintains a comprehensive international data base covering issues such as:

- Biotechnology;
- Plant science and production;
- Post harvesting systems;
- Animal science, production and handling;
- Agriculture machinery and engineering;
- Natural resource management and the environment;
- Processing of agriculture production;
- Pesticide management; and
- Water, soil and weed management.

Further information:

General Information: <http://www.fao.org/>

Agriculture specific information: <http://www.fao.org/ag/guides/sites.htm>

Contact Details:

Address: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Email: <mailto:FAO-HQ@fao.org>

Enquiries: General enquiries:
Telephone: (+39) 06 570 54243
Fax: (+39) 06 570 56167

Further contact details: http://www.fao.org/UNFAO/about/contact_en.html

Australia Contact: DAFF manages Australia's involvement in the FAO – the relevant contact officer is:
Mr David Ingham Telephone: 02 6272 5883.

2.2 United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

The CSD is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Commission was created in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). These activities include monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Earth Summit agreements at the local, national, regional and international levels.

The Earth Summit, as UNCED is also known, was convened in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 to address urgent problems of environmental protection and socio-economic development. The assembled leaders signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity; endorsed the Rio Declaration and the Forest Principles; and adopted Agenda 21, a 300-page plan for achieving sustainable development in the 21st century.

A five-year review of Earth Summit progress was undertaken in 1997 by the United Nations General Assembly meeting in special session. This was followed by a ten-year review in 2002 in Johannesburg by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The review and monitoring activities of the CSD are continuing. This process will include reviewing progress against the eight Millennium Development Goals adopted by the UN.

Source & Further Information:

CSD: <http://www.un.org/esa/index.html> and Agenda 21: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/english/agenda21toc.htm>

Contact Details:

- Address:** Division for Sustainable Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Two United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-2220
East 44th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenue.
New York, NY 10017, USA
- Enquiries:** Telephone: + 1 212-963-2803
E-mail: <mailto:dsd@un.org>
- Australia Contact:** DAFF manages those aspects of the CSD's work program dealing with sustainable agriculture – the relevant contact officer in DAFF is:
Mr Ross Dalton
Telephone: 02 6272 54874.

3. National Councils

3.1 Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council (NRMMC)

Objective:

“To promote the conservation and sustainable use of Australia’s natural resources.”

The terms of reference of the NRMMC are to:

- develop policies and strategies for national approaches to the conservation, sustainable use and management of Australia’s land, water, vegetation and biological resources;
- oversee the development and implementation of national natural resource management programs including the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP), the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and other agreed programs;
- monitor and evaluate outcomes of these policies, strategies and programs and the health of the nation’s natural resources;
- promote community understanding of and engagement with the key challenges associated with the sustainable use and management of Australia’s land and water, vegetation and biological resources; and
- liaise with other Ministerial Councils and other bodies on matters relevant to the activities of the Council.

Composition:

The NRMMC is comprised of Australian Government, State and Territory Ministers with responsibility for conservation, natural resource management and primary industries. New Zealand is also a member while the Australian Local Government Association and Papua New Guinea are observers.

Structure

The activities of the NRMMC are supported by the Natural Resource Management Standing Committee and the following advisory committees:

- Natural Resource Policies and Programs Committee; and
- Marine and Coastal Committee.

Further information: <http://www.mincos.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Edmund Barton Building
Broughton Street, Barton
Canberra ACT

Postal Address: GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

Enquiries: Mr Phil Lansdown
Secretary NRMMC. Ph: (02) 6272 5093

3.2 Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC)

Objectives:

“To develop and promote sustainable, innovative and profitable agriculture, fisheries/aquaculture, food and forestry industries.”

Terms of reference:

The terms of reference of the PIMC are to:

- develop, implement and review policies and strategies for achieving agreed national approaches to the development of sustainable primary and related food industries;
- actively liaise with other Ministerial Councils and other bodies on matters relevant to the activities of the Council; and
- direct the work of and consider matters submitted by its Standing Committee.

Composition

The PIMC is comprised of Australian Government, State and Territory Ministers with responsibility for agriculture, fisheries and forestry. New Zealand is also a member of PIMC while Papua New Guinea is an observer.

Structure

The activities of the PIMC are supported by the Primary Industries Standing Committee and the following advisory committees:

- Primary Industries Health Committee;
- Industry Development Committee; and
- Forestry and Forest Products Committee

Further information: <http://www.mincos.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Edmund Barton Building Broughton Street, Barton
Canberra ACT

Postal Address: GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601

Enquiries: Mr Phil Lansdown
Secretary PIMC. Ph: (02) 6272 5093

3.3 Australian Landcare Council (ALC)

Terms of reference:

The Australian Landcare Council is the Australian Government's peak advisory body on landcare and matters concerning natural resource management. It has a major role in advising the Government on priorities and strategies for natural resource management to achieve efficient, sustainable and equitable management of natural resources in Australia that are consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

The ALC's primary role is to assemble and refine recommendations on key natural resource management issues and provide considered policy advice to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Warren Truss MP and the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Hon Dr David Kemp MP. It also has a major role in providing advice to the Australian Government on how the landcare movement can contribute to the goals of the Government's natural resource management initiatives such as the Natural Heritage Trust, National Landcare Program and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

Composition:

The Council currently comprises a Chairman (Mr Bruce Lloyd), ten community members and six members nominated by organisations such as the National Farmer's Federation, Greening Australia, the Australian Local Government Association, the Australian Conservation Federation and Forest Industries

Further information: <http://www.auslandcarecouncil.org/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Suit 2, 6 Kennedy Street Kingston
Canberra ACT

Postal Address: PO Box 4848
Kingston ACT 2604

Enquiries: Shelley Cooper
Executive Officer
Telephone: 02 6295 8199
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landcare@secretariat.com.au

4. National and Regional Agencies

4.1 Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF)

DAFF is the Commonwealth government agency with the responsibility for the management and development of issues affecting Australia's agricultural, food, fisheries and forest industries. These responsibilities include:

- promoting a profitable, competitive and sustainable business environment;
- enhancing the business and leadership capabilities of rural producers and industry organisations;
- enhancing the natural resource base upon which the portfolio industries are based;
- assisting the food supply chain to become more globally competitive;
- maintaining and improving market access;
- minimising the impacts of pests, diseases and contaminations and contributing to animal health and welfare;
- keeping Australia free of exotic pests and diseases, and ensuring export standards;
- delivering scientific advice, assessments and tools for decision makers; and
- delivering economic advice, forecasts and analysis.
- DAFF promotes sustainable agriculture through:
 - its contribution to national and international policies affecting the agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries as well as the management of Australia's natural resources;
 - the development and management of a range of national programs designed to assist Australian industries and individual enterprises to become more competitive and sustainable;
 - supporting research and development by the Bureau of Rural Sciences, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and relevant Research and Development Corporations.

International and National Policies

At the international and national levels the Department has a significant role in the development of policies and approaches to sustainable agriculture. Internationally, it does this through its involvement in the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (see Sections 1.1 and 1.2 above) as well as by promoting an open and fair trading environment. At the national level the main fora are the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council and the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (see Sections 2.1 and 2.2 above). Other relevant DAFF activities include input to policies and programs within other Commonwealth agencies relevant to sustainable agriculture including:

- Biodiversity and conservation (Department of Environment and Heritage); and
- Rural and regional development (Department of Transport & Regional Services).

Programs relevant to Sustainable Agriculture

DAFF manages a wide range of programs and activities that underpin sustainable agriculture including those associated with maintaining and enhancing:

- product integrity as well as plant and animal health;
- market access and biosecurity; and
- Australia's Quarantine and Inspection Services.

In addition, the Department manages several programs with particular relevance to sustainable agriculture including:

- The Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality (Jointly with Department of the Environment and Heritage) including the National Landcare Program;
- The Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative;
- Agriculture – Advancing Australia (AAA); and
- Exceptional Circumstances.

The AAA package of Commonwealth programs is designed to help primary producers in agriculture, fishing, forestry and processed food industries become more competitive, sustainable and profitable. AAA does this through a range of programs and activities such as: FarmBis; Farm Management Deposits; Farm Help; Rural Financial Counselling; Rural Leadership Programs, Industry Partnerships and International Agricultural Cooperation. Collectively these programs provide:

- Funding for business management training and education;
- Financial management tools;
- Financial support and professional advice;
- Capacity building and information for industries facing emerging challenges; and
- Improved access to markets.

DAFF also has a significant role in supporting national efforts to coordinate the development and adoption of Environmental Management Systems, this has included:

- funding and managing national pilot programs;
- maintaining a database of EMS-related activities in Australia; and
- establishing and managing the EMS Incentives Program program (delivered by Centrelink).

Research and Development

Information on relevant research and development undertaken by the Bureau of Rural Sciences, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Research and Development Corporations in support of sustainable agriculture is provided at Chapters 4 and 5.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.daff.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Edmund Barton Building
Broughton Street, Barton
Canberra ACT

Postal Address: GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

General Inquiries: Telephone: (02) 6272 3933

EMS Inquiries: Telephone: (02) 6272 4531
Email: <mailto:ems@daff.gov.au>

Further contact details: <http://www.daff.gov.au/content/contacts.cfm>

4.2 Department of the Environment & Heritage (DEH)

DEH advises the Commonwealth Government on policies and programs for the protection and conservation of the environment, including both natural and cultural heritage places.

It manages a number of major environmental programs. The most significant of these dealing with natural resource management come under the umbrella of the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. Both the Trust and National Action Plan are administered jointly with Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia.

DEH works with Australian business organisations and industrial sectors, the community and other levels of government to protect Australia's atmosphere and to improve the environmental performance of Australian industry. It also administers national environmental laws, including the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and a range of other Acts. This legislation provides a national framework for environment protection through a focus on protecting matters of national environmental significance and on the conservation of Australia's biodiversity.

DEH also has responsibility for a number of administrative arrangements relating to taxation concessions that seek to promote the conservation and protection of the natural environment on private land.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.ea.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: John Gorton Building
King Edward Terrace
Parkes ACT 2600

Postal Address: GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

General Enquiries: Telephone: (02) 6274 1111

Further contact details: <http://www.deh.gov.au/about/contacts.html>

4.3 Murray Darling Basin Commission (MDBC)

The Murray-Darling Basin Initiative is the partnership between the relevant Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments and the community established to give effect to the 1992 Murray-Darling Basin Agreement. The purpose of the Agreement is 'to promote and co-ordinate effective planning and management for the equitable, efficient and sustainable use of the water, land and other environmental resources of the Murray-Darling Basin'.

In addition to operating and managing the River Murray water storage and distribution system, the Commission also has a mandate to initiate, support and evaluate integrated natural resources management across the Murray-Darling Basin. The Commission's key policies and strategies in support of improved management of the Basin's natural resources include:

- Integrated Catchment Management Policy (2001) providing the framework for natural resource management in the Basin;
- The Natural Resources Management Strategy to provide a Basin-wide focus for responding to key natural resource management issues;
- Human Dimension Strategy (1999) covering the social, institutional and cultural factors impacting on the management of the Basin's natural resources;
- Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy (in preparation) to monitor and report on the condition of the Basin's natural resources;
- Basin Salinity Management Strategy to manage the implications of dryland salinity;
- Floodplain Wetlands Management Strategy (2004) to the basis for floodplain wetland management activity;
- Algal Management Strategy (1994) to reduce the frequency and intensity of algal blooms and other associated water quality problems;
- Fish Management Strategy (2003) to provide a framework for remedial action designed to reverse the decline in the native fish populations;
- Salinity and Drainage Strategy (1988) to ensure that salinity in dryland and irrigated areas of the Basin are addressed in an integrated way; and
- Strategic Investigations and Education Program.
- More specific Commission activities of direct relevance to sustainable agriculture include projects associated with:
 - The Living Murray;
 - The Sustainable Rivers Audit;
 - Interstate Water Trading; and
 - Targeted Revegetation.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.mdbc.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: 15 Moore Street, Canberra City, ACT

Postal Address: GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601

General Enquiries: Telephone: (02) 6279 0100 <mailto:info@mdbc.gov.au>

4.4 Greening Australia Limited

Greening Australia (GA) is an a-political, solutions-driven organisation that works in partnership with landholders, the community, government and business to address environmental degradation in a practical and scientific way. It tackles critical issues like salinity, declining water quality, soil degradation and biodiversity loss through an innovative blend of practical experience, science, community engagement and commitment.

Greening Australia administers a range of natural resource management programs funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust (including Farm Forestry Support, Exchange – National Vegetation Knowledge Service and River Recovery), works in partnership with Job Futures to deliver the Australian Government's Green Corps program and enjoys 'preferred tenderer' status with the Department of Defence Environmental Panel Agreement. Greening Australia has developed partnerships with leading scientific and research agencies (including the CSIRO and Land & water Australia) to develop innovative solutions that combine education and awareness with direct on-ground strategic work.

GA has a network of over 250 staff in 70 locations across Australia and works with people from remote and regional as well as metropolitan communities. On a fee-for-service basis, Greening Australia provides an array of environmental services including project management, on-ground revegetation, seed collection, training and professional advice relating to vegetation management.

Activities/program relevant to sustainable agriculture specific relevance to sustainable agriculture include:

- support for the conservation of native vegetation (through informing property management and administering fencing incentives);
- advice on native vegetation including where to obtain native species;
- advice and support for farm forestry; and
- developing innovative approaches to financing individuals and groups who propose to undertake NRM activities delivering public and private benefits.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Greening Australia National Office
Banks Street, Yarralumla ACT 2600

Postal Address: PO Box 74
Yarralumla ACT 2600

General Enquiries: Telephone: (02) 6281 8585
mailto:general@greeningaustralia.org.au

Further contact details: Contact GA state/territory head office to find the location of the closest GA office

4.5 National Farmers' Federation (NFF)

For 25 years it has represented Australia's farmers in the federal political arena on broad national issues such as land and water resource security, industrial relations, trade, farm costs, telecommunications, sustainable agriculture and the environment. Its vision is Australian farmers operating profitable and sustainable farm businesses.

The NFF has a number of committees active in areas of direct relevance to sustainable agriculture including the Land & Native Vegetation Task Force, the Water Task Force, Farm Business & Economics and the Quarantine & Animal Health Task Force. In terms of achieving improved sustainability its key objectives are to:

- Ensure water resource security;
- Ensure land resource security ;
- Increase access, use and benefit from environmental stewardship programs;
- Limit costs of greenhouse impacts, adaptation and abatement ;
- Ensure agricultural programs improve farmers' risk management and self reliance;
- Increase access, use and benefit from these agricultural programs
- Ensure Government regional programs boost the profitability of the rural economy; and
- Increase access, use and benefit from these regional programs.

Membership

The National Farmers' Federation is made up of State farm organisations, commodity councils, associates, affiliates and friends of NFF. State farm organisations represent the interests of the agricultural sector in their respective States, national commodity councils represent individual commodities on national issues, and NFF is responsible for national issues which affect more than one State or more than one commodity.

Associate membership is restricted to State and national bodies which are closely related to agricultural, pastoral, fishing or forestry activities. Affiliated membership is also available to emerging industries at the discretion of NFF's Council. Friends of NFF status is restricted to recognised State and national bodies having aims and objectives similar to those of NFF.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.nff.org.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: NFF House,
14-16 Brisbane Avenue, Barton ACT

Postal Address: PO Box E10
Kingston ACT 2604

General Enquiries: Phone: (02) 6273-3855
Facsimile: (02) 6273-2331

4.6 Other Non-governmental Organisations

There is a range of non-governmental, conservation orientated organisations that seek to inform and influence the national and international sustainable agriculture agenda, a selection of those of most direct relevance to Australia follow:

4.6.1 The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

The IUCN is a union of members from some 140 countries, 114 government agencies, and 800-plus NGOs. More than 10,000 internationally-recognized scientists and experts from more than 180 countries volunteer their services to its six global commissions. Its 1000 staff members in offices around the world are working on some 500 projects. For more than 50 years this 'Green Web' of partnerships has generated environmental conventions, global standards, scientific knowledge and innovative leadership.

Further Information: <http://www.iucn.org/>

4.6.2 Ecoagriculture Partners

Ecoagriculture Partners is jointly sponsored by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Forest Trends, World Agroforestry Centre, and the Future Harvest Foundation. The project seeks to transform rural landscapes where both agricultural production and natural biodiversity are highly valued to ecoagriculture. Partners come from conservation non-governmental organisations (NGOs), agricultural NGOs international research organisations, farmers' organisations, universities, private sector companies, inter-governmental organisations, and public agencies. Individuals may also be Partners.

Objectives

- To promote ecoagriculture innovation and adoption, ecoagriculture Partners seeks to add value to Partners' work on the ground and provide a platform for collaboration to:
- document ecoagriculture systems and practices, and monitor their impacts on food production, rural livelihoods, wild biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- identify research gaps, develop assessment methods and catalyze inter-disciplinary research on ecoagriculture systems;
- facilitate communication and broker knowledge among innovators, through a public website, cross-site visits, conferences and workshops;
- promote partnerships to develop, improve and scale up successful ecoagriculture practices; and
- raise awareness of the public and of policymakers about the potentials of ecoagriculture and the actions needed to support its further development.

Source & Further Information:

<http://www.ecoagriculturepartners.org/index.htm>

4.6.3 Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Since its inception in 1961, WWF has worked to conserve nature and ecological processes through a combination of action on the ground, national and international advocacy work to establish appropriate policies, and international campaigns to highlight and demonstrate solutions to crucial environmental problems.

WWF Australia's role in promoting sustainable agriculture includes:

- Encouraging the uptake of voluntary programs for agriculture, such as environmental management systems and best management practices.
- Working with agricultural sectors to develop voluntary programs that will deliver on-farm environmental benefits, including a pilot scheme to develop a comprehensive environmental management system for cotton growers.
- Developing innovative models for landscape conservation, such as conservation 'auction' schemes.

Further Information: <http://www.wwf.org.au/>

4.6.4 Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)

The ACF is a non-profit, membership-based environment group specialising in public and industry policy analysis and advocacy. It takes a solutions-oriented approach to a wide range of environmental issues. ACF seeks to form partnerships with community groups, governments and business to achieve ecologically sustainable outcomes.

ACF's agriculture-related activities include:

- Ongoing campaigns around the health of the Murray River system, the ecologically sustainable management of water and native vegetation, the conservation of biodiversity in farming landscapes, and the management of dryland salinity. ACF periodically lobbies jointly with the National Farmers' Federation on issues of mutual concern, such as the National Water Initiative (2004) and the 'Repairing the Country' report (2000).
- ACF is represented on the governing board of the CRC for Plant-Based Management of Dryland Salinity, as well as the Australian Landcare Council.
- ACF recently partnered with the Joint Venture Agroforestry Program to commission a report ('Fuelling Landscape Repair') exploring pathways to a sustainable bioenergy industry in Australia with land repair, regional development and greenhouse mitigation potential.
- ACF has had an alliance with Southcorp Ltd, Australia's largest premium wine producer, since mid-2000. The Alliance has produced a range of initiatives, including: the EcoVine Project (2001) & the Farms to Landscapes seminar (2003); the Leveraging Private Investment report (2002); the Biodiversity Project (current).

Further Information: <http://www.acfonline.org.au/>

5. Research & Development Corporations

A broad range of joint Commonwealth/industry funded research and development corporations as well as Land & Water Australia and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation contribute to Australia's knowledge base supporting sustainable agriculture. These corporations were established in 1990 under the Primary Industries & Energy Research & Development (PIERD) Act 1989.

While it is acknowledged that most of the activities of the key RDC's could influence agriculture sustainability the following summary focuses on those activities with a more explicit or direct focus on sustainable agriculture.

5.1 Australian Pork Ltd (APL)

Australian Pork Limited is the national representative body for Australian pig producers. It is a producer-owned not-for-profit company combining marketing, export development, research, innovation and strategic policy development to assist in securing a profitable and sustainable future for the Australian pork industry.

The research and development activities of the APL are focused on its advancing its strategic directions and objectives as outlined in its Strategic Plan for 2002-2005.

In relation to sustainable agriculture the most relevant is Strategic Objective 2.2 that has the objective of streamlining regulatory processes constraining the further expansion of the pork industry and to produce options to assist industry compliance with environmental, welfare and other regulations.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.australianpork.com.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: West Wing, Level 1
43-49 Geills Court Deakin ACT

Postal Address: PO Box 148
Deakin West ACT 2600

General Enquiries: Telephone: (02) 6285 2200
Freecall: 1800 789 099
Email: apl@australianpork.com.au

Further contact details: <http://www.apl.au.com/index.cfm>

5.2 Australian Wool Innovation Ltd (AWI)

AWI is a fully independent public company limited by shares and owned by Australian woolgrowers that initiates, commissions and delivers research and development for Australian woolgrowers. Its primary aim is the adoption of technology - on farm and along the global wool pipeline. It also provides trade development and market intelligence services on behalf of Australian woolgrowers.

The main program being undertaken by AWI with direct application to sustainable agriculture is Land, Water and Wool. This environmental management program builds further knowledge and provides producers with practical tools to enhance profitability and sustainability. It was launched in August 2001 and was developed with and is being managed by Land & Water Australia.

A number of Land, Water and Wool sub-programs have been developed and are being implemented in major wool production regions around Australia, including:

- SGSL - Sustainable Grazing on Saline Land;
- Rivers and Water Quality;
- Managing Climate Variability;
- Managing Pastoral Country;
- Native Vegetation and Biodiversity;
- Future Woolscales;
- Communication;
- Benchmarking; and
- SGS Harvest Year.

AWI has also commissioned a State of the Wool Industry Environment report, against which the industry will develop benchmarks for environmentally sustainable wool production practices.

Source & Further Information: www.wool.com.au; and Land & Water Australia website www.lwa.gov.au

Contact Details:

Street Address: Level 5, 16-20 Barrack Street
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

Postal Address: GPO Box 4177
Sydney NSW 2001

General Enquiries: Telephone: (02) 9299 5155
Helpline 1800 070 099 (free call)
Email: info@woolinnovation.com.au

Land, Water and Wool Program Ms Lu Hogan, AWI Project Manager Sustainable Production Systems, Telephone (02) 9299 5155,
Email: luhogan@woolinnovation.com.au

5.3 Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC)

The aim of the Cotton Research and Development Corporation is to inform a more sustainable, profitable and competitive cotton industry, providing increased environmental, economic and social benefits to regional communities and the nation.

The CRDC has an integrated and comprehensive research program. Approximately 35% of the research budget for 2003/04 will be spent on improving the management of insects, diseases and weeds, and approx. 15% towards integrating natural resource management involving soils, water and best management practice and environment

The Cotton R&DC research program is divided into a number of sub-programs of relevance of to sustainable agriculture including:

- Insect Management ;
- Diseases and Weeds ;
- Soils ;
- Water ;
- Best Management Practice and the Environment ;
- Community and Economics;
- Processing and Market ;
- Breeding and Biotechnology;
- Farming Systems and Agronomy;
- Technology Transfer and Extension; and
- Human Resources.

Source & Further Information: www.crdc.com.au

Contact Details:

Street Address: Head office:
2 Lloyd Street, Narrabri, NSW

Postal Address: PO Box 282,
Narrabri, NSW 2390

General Enquiries: Telephone: (02) 6792 4088
Email: research@crdc.com.au

5.4 Dairy Australia (DA)

Dairy Australia commenced operations on 1st July 2003 amalgamating the functions of the Australian Dairy Corporation (ADC) and Dairy Research and Development Corporation (DRDC). Its overall aim is to promote and develop the Australian dairy industry and Australian dairy produce by:

- carrying out research, development and extension activities;
- developing national and international markets for Australian dairy produce ;
and
- providing information and other services.

DA's Farm Research and Innovation Portfolio focuses on financially and environmentally sustainable improvements in productivity and profitability by:

- conducting research on ways to increase farm productivity;
- emphasising a systems approach to research and extension that demonstrates more clearly the effect of interactions between competing elements of farm businesses;
- developing and rolling out targeted learning packages to promote industry change, (such as Countdown Downunder, InCalf, CowTime, Top Fodder and Protein Plus);
- investing in plant and animal genetics to develop new and improved production systems; and
- researching the interaction between environment and production systems at the paddock, farm and catchment scales.

The 'Dairying for Tomorrow - Sustaining Our Natural Resources' project is particular relevance to Sustainable Agriculture. This project is being undertaken by Dairy Australia in partnership with the National Land and Water Resources Audit and the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation and represents a national strategy for the dairy industry to work with community partners to sustain its natural resources. To-date this project has:

- assessed the sustainability and best practice management;
- surveyed current practice, production opportunities and attitudes amongst dairy farmers and other members of the industry; and
- developed programs to promote the adoption of best practice management.

In addition, the Regional Action Plans developed by the eight Regional Development Programs will form the basis for industry projects in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Natural Heritage Trust, regional groups and catchment management authorities.

Source & Further Information: www.dairyaustralia.com.au

Contact Details:

Street Address: Level 5, IBM Tower
60 City Road, Southbank, Victoria

Postal Address: Locked Bag 104
Flinders Lane Victoria 8009

General Enquiries: Telephone: (03) 9694 3777

5.5 Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC)

The GRDC is a statutory corporation responsible for planning, investing and overseeing research and development, delivering improvements in production, sustainability and profitability across Australia's grains industry. The Corporation's vision is for a profitable, internationally competitive and ecologically sustainable grains industry.

The GRDC's research portfolio covers 25 crops spanning temperate and tropical cereals, oilseeds and pulses organised in the following programs:

- Winter Cereal improvement;
- Crop Improvement;
- Crop protection;
- Sustainable Farming Systems;
- Value Chain; and
- Product and Service Delivery.

The Sustainable Farming Systems Program has the most direct relevance to sustainable agriculture. Its prime objective is the development of profitable grain production systems that maintain or enhance the natural resource base that underpins the industry. It includes scientific studies to understand and quantify critical processes, and cause-effect relationships that underpin sustainable use of land, water and vegetation resources, the effects of climate variability and aspects of risk management. Current work supported within this Program covers:

- managing water balance to increase production and reduce recharge/salinity;
- improving nutrient availability and uptake;
- overcoming soil constraints through Controlled Traffic, raised beds and other methods;
- managing soil biology to improve crop performance and sustainability (this topic is covered within the Soil Biology R&D Initiative);;
- preventing or overcoming the effects of soil acidity and sodicity;
- managing spatial variability using precision farming and other methods;
- improving legumes, pastures, break crops and rhizobia;
- improved rotations and farming systems;
- development of practical conservation farming methods; and
- maintaining natural resource assets.

Source & Further Information: www.grdc.com.au

Contact Details:

Street Address: Level 1 40 Blackall Street
Barton ACT 2600

Postal Address: PO Box 5367
Kingston, ACT 2604

General Enquiries: Telephone: (02) 6272 5525
E-mail: grdc@grdc.com.au

Sustainable Farming Systems Program Manager: Dr Martin Blumenthal
Program Coordinator: Jane Lilley, j.lilley@grdc.com.au
Telephone: 02 6272 5525

5.6 Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation (GWRDC)

The GWRDC is the body responsible for investing in grape and wine research and development on behalf of the Australian wine industry and the Australian community. The mission of the GWRDC is to enable a sustainable, innovative and profitable future for the Australian wine industry through strategic investment in research and development.

Its research portfolio is comprised of the following programs:

- Innovation and Technology Adoption Program;
- Sustainable Production;
- Quality and Differentiation;
- Market Intelligence; and
- R&D Program Management and Stakeholder Relations.

The Sustainable Production program (Program 2) is of most direct application to sustainable agriculture. It has the objectives of enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of grape and wine production. It seeks to achieve improved production input efficiency, lower exposure to pest and disease risks, and lower environmental and ecological impacts per unit of production.

The strategies involved in the Sustainable Production program include:

- Improving productivity in production systems and the supply chain;
- Addressing production risks and developing appropriate management strategies;
- Facilitating the availability and use by industry of better performing plant material;
- Developing technologies and practices to reduce the impact of climate, pest and disease risk factors;
- Reducing the negative environmental impacts of production systems and address associated community returns;
- Improving the efficiency and the ecological outcomes of water use in collaboration with other industries; and
- Ensuring the objective assessment and management of risks associated with the introduction and spread of exotic pests and diseases.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.gwrdc.com.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: 67 Greenhill Rd,
Wayville, SA, 5034

Postal Address: PO Box 221
Goodwood, SA 5034

General Enquiries: Telephone:(08) 82730500
Email : gwrdc@gwrdc.com.au

5.7 Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL)

Horticulture Australia is the national research, development and marketing organisation for the horticulture industry. Horticulture Australia also facilitates the dissemination, adoption and commercialisation of the results of horticultural R&D outcomes and plays a key role in facilitating linkages within and between horticultural industries and agencies.

HAL's research program covers 19 horticulture sectors. Each of these sectors has developed its own specific priorities and activities that respond to their particular requirements. In addition, HAL supports strategic research and development activity with broad application across all sectors. For example Water – to Ensure Ongoing Access to Water for Horticulture addresses the challenge of ensuring ongoing access to water. The overall deliverables for this initiative are:

- growing profitable crops with less water by developing and adopting water-saving growing methods; and
- ensure policy makers take horticulture issues into account by showing that horticulture should be a high priority for access to water by maximising horticulture's voice in policy development.
- A selection of the relevant activities of HAL's water initiative include:
- involvement in project selection for the National Program for Sustainable Irrigation resulting in significant horticultural focus
- formation of a Water Reference Group to assist communication with key stakeholders in horticulture water issues;
- development of drought survival information;
- compilation of a brochure to promote value of horticulture as a water user;
- input/submissions to several projects and studies on water and irrigation;
- development of water use efficiency framework for horticultural industries;
- an assessment of water quality issues facing horticulture; and
- facilitating processes to improve reliability of water supplies using treated reclaimed water.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.horticulture.com.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Level 1, 50 Carrington Street
Sydney, 2000

General Enquiries: Telephone: (02) 8295 2300
Email: info@horticulture.com.au

5.8 Land & Water Australia

Land & Water Australia is the research and development corporation with responsibility for research and development aimed at the productive and sustainable management of Australia's land, water and vegetation resources that underpin our primary industries and regional communities

Land & Water Australia has a focus on providing technical and biophysical information for natural resource management and extension. Increasingly, it is also providing information on socio-economic and institutional issues for policy analysis and formulation as well as investing in building capacity through education and training programs.

The end-users of Land & Water Australia research include: on-ground managers of natural resources such as farmers; organisations such as catchment and water authorities and river managers; local and state government agencies; and policy makers at all levels. It provides these users with access to an extensive data base on the results of research on a wide range of issues of and challenges central to promoting sustainable agriculture, including: vegetation management; sustainable grazing; climate, groundwater, rangelands and salinity management (dryland and irrigation).

Land & Water Australia manages its programs under five broad research arenas:

- sustainable primary industries;
- river landscapes;
- vegetation;
- future landscapes; and
- cross-cutting activities across the other four arenas.

The Sustainable Primary Industries program is of particular relevance to sustainable agriculture. It targets environmental and production outcomes and provides a link between Australia's primary industries and the other environmental and social research in Land & Water Australia's broad portfolio. Its activities range from multi-partner programs across a number of industries to working with a specific partner and single industries. It can also provide advice to rural industries wanting to initiate more environmental research of their own.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.lwa.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Level 2, UNISYS Building 91
Northbourne Avenue Turner
Canberra ACT 2612

Postal Address: GPO Box 2182, Canberra ACT 2601

General Enquiries: (02) 6257 3379
Email: public@lwa.gov.au

5.9 Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)

MLA is the national research, development and marketing organisation for the to the entire Australian red meat industry including producers, processors, exporters, live exporters and retailers. The MLA's core activities are working to improve market access, building demand for Australian red meat and conducting research and development to provide competitive advantages for the meat and livestock industry.

MLA has conducted and continues to undertake research and delivery initiatives across northern and southern Australia in developing sustainable agricultural practices on and off farm. These include:

- Life cycle analysis program – from paddock to plate;
- Processing industry environmental performance review (1995 – 2003);
- Saline Water Re-use and Effluent Management ;
- Reducing phosphorus from processing plants ;
- Industry Triple Bottom Line Analysis;
- Sludge composting and reducing the waste stream;
- Water quality - reducing sediments to the Great Barrier Reef;
- Soil
- nutrient
- response and development of Environmental Risk Assessment Tools;
- Dryland Salinity – increasing the perennality of southern farming systems with catchment management authorities, Grain & Graze, and Profitable Animal Performance from Perennials;
- Sustainable Grazing of Saline Land – with AWI and LWA to develop and demonstrate improved land use and reverse environmental impacts;
- Biodiversity – examining options to improve pasture utilisation and monitoring biodiversity impacts, manage biodiversity and promoting conservation areas on-farm;
- Biological weeds control initiatives for northern and southern weeds;
- Feral animals – rabbit biological control and feral pig management;
- Greenhouse gas reduction - reducing rumen microbial emissions and monitoring of long term changes in woody vegetation/carbon sinks.
- Supporting climate studies and developing risk management tools;
- Partner in the National Dryland Salinity Program and the Plant Based Management to Dryland Salinity CRC;
- Developing the knowledge, skills and confidence of producers to implement new practices via EDGE network workshops, funding for demonstrations and research; Tips and Tools – on farm, 'How To' sheets; and Technical Manuals 'Towards Sustainable Grazing' .

Source & Further Information: <http://www.mla.com.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Level 1, 165 Walker Street,
North Sydney NSW 2060

Postal Address: Locked Bag 991, North Sydney 2059

General Enquiries: Telephone : (02) 9463 9333
Free Phone: 1800 023 100 (Australia only)

**Towards
Sustainable Grazing** Cameron Allan, Project Manager – Pastures & NRM
Tel: (02) 6361 1204 callan@mla.com.au

5.10 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)

RIRDC manages and funds priority research and translating results into practical outcomes for industry development. RIRDC's interests arise from its statutory responsibilities for cross-sectoral research under the Primary Industries and Energy Act 1997. Its activities focus on:

- enhancing innovation in the rural and related sectors;
- fostering the development of new industries; and
- addressing strategic issues facing the rural sector.

RIRDC's research activities are organised in the following programs:

Program: Prospective New Industries

Sub-programs: New Plant Products and New Animal Products.

Program: Emerging New Industries

Sub-programs: Agroforestry & Farm Forestry; Asian Foods Deer; Essential Oils and Plant Extracts; Organic Produce; Rare Natural (Animal) Fibres; Tea Tree Oil; and Wildflowers and Native Plants.

Program: Established Industries

Sub-programs: Chicken Meat; Egg Industry; Fodder Crops; Honeybees; Horses; Pasture Seeds; and Rice.

Program: Future Agricultural Systems

Sub-programs: Global Competitiveness; Resilient Agricultural Systems; and Human Capital, Communications and Information Systems.

The Resilient Agricultural Systems Subprogram is of particular relevance to sustainable agriculture. It sponsors research and development into ways that farm based systems can be made both sustainable and more profitable by working in the areas such as:

- accreditation systems for sustainable agricultural production, environment management and new agri-industry systems; and
- agricultural production opportunities that are more compatible with Australia's fragile soils and variable climate.

From June 2004 the Resilient Agriculture Program will be restructured as the 'Environment and Farm Management' and 'Rangelands and Wildlife' programs.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Level 1, AMA House, 42 Macquarie Street
BARTON ACT 2600

Postal Address: PO Box 4776,
KINGSTON ACT 2604

General Enquiries: Telephone (02) 6272 4539
Email: rirdc@rirdc.gov.au

**Resilient
Agricultural
Systems
Subprogram** Program manager: Dr George Wilson,
Phone 02 6281 2160,
email: gwilson@awt.com.au

6. Research Institutions

6.1 Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

As a large and diverse scientific research organisation, many of CSIRO's research programs touch on issues relevant to sustainable agriculture. Of particular relevance is the work undertaken in the Agribusiness & Health and the Environment and Natural Resources Research Groups; a summary of the most relevant aspects of the work undertaken by these groups follows.

6.1.1 Agribusiness & Health Research Group

Livestock Industries

This Unit engages in research aimed at developing sustainable livestock management systems while improving production efficiency and reducing the ecological impact of production animals. A major focus is on the protection of Australia's animal health status and market access and the development of disease control methods which optimise animal welfare and reduce current reliance on the use of chemicals.

Plant Industry

This unit carries out research on agri-food, fibre and horticultural industries. A major focus is on improving production efficiency and reliability and maintaining the natural resource base. Its research also contributes to the conservation of biodiversity in the Australian flora and the implications of global climate change for natural and agricultural ecosystems.

6.1.2 Environment and Natural Resources Group

Land & Water

The focus of CSIRO Land and Water is the delivery of innovative solutions to Australia's complex land and water management problems and options that are profitable, socially acceptable and environmentally sustainable. Its research capabilities are in hydrology, irrigation, soil science, remote sensing, aquatic ecology and economics, including environmental economics.

Sustainable Ecosystems

This unit carries out research to enable Australian ecosystems to support healthy rural, regional and urban communities, to sustain viable enterprises and to be managed so that biodiversity is allowed to prosper. Its capabilities are in ecology, in particular systems approach to ecological issues, agricultural systems, social and economic integration, complex systems science, and biotechnology as applied to solutions to vertebrate pest management.

Entomology

This unit has the remit of contributing to the protection of agricultural and natural and managed ecosystems from invasive pests. Its capabilities lie in

the evolution and ecology of invasive species at a landscape scale and an emerging capability in the molecular biology and physiology of insects.

6.1.3 Flagships and Other Programs

In addition, CSIRO has developed a series of National Flagship Research activities targeted initially at six fields of national endeavour - health, energy, water, food futures, light metals and oceans. In these fields they seek to achieve technological revolution, in the sense of discovering, developing, commercialising and applying frontier technologies to dramatically improve performance and, wherever possible, set world-best standards. The most relevant of these to sustainable agriculture is Water for a Healthy Country with a focus on developing:

- urban and rural water systems which cope with population growth and climate change;
- agricultural and ecological landscape systems, which deliver increased profit, and better environmental outcomes; and
- industrial and agricultural systems that profit from innovative conversion of wastes to resources.

CSIRO has grouped all of its climate research work under the umbrella of the CSIRO Climate Program. CSIRO Climate includes outcomes to improved agricultural returns for Australia through research into climate impacts and adaptation, mitigation of climate change and enhancing climate monitoring and forecasting.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.csiro.au/>

Contact Details:

General Enquiries:	Postal: Bag 10 Clayton South VIC 3169 Telephone: 1300 363 400; Email: enquiries@csiro.au
Land & Water	GPO Box 1666, Canberra ACT 2601 Telephone: +61 2 6246 5700; Email: CLW-BM-Enquiries@csiro.au
Livestock Industries	Ms Margaret Puls - Marketing and Public Relations Manager CSIRO Livestock Industries, Private Bag 5 Wembley WA 6913 Telephone: +61 8 9333 6403; Email: Margaret.Puls@csiro.au
Plant Industry	GPO Box 1600 Canberra ACT 2601 Telephone: +61 2 6246 4911; Email: pi-enquiries@csiro.au
Sustainable Ecosystems	'Gungahlin Homestead' Canberra GPO Box 284 ACT 2601 Telephone: +61 2 6242 1600; Email: info@cse.csiro.au
Water for a Healthy Country	Water for a Healthy Country Flagship GPO Box 2697, Canberra ACT 2601 Telephone: +61 2 6246 4572; email: janelle.mcfarlane@csiro.au
CSIRO Climate	Bryson Bates, Director, CSIRO Climate, GPO Box 2697, Canberra ACT 2601; Telephone: +61 2 6246 5745 email: bryson.bates@csiro.au

6.2 Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS)

The Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) is the scientific bureau within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). BRS provides nationally focused scientific advice to support evidence-based policy development and decision making by government.

The activities of BRS cover the physical as well as the social and institutional dimensions of sustainable agriculture. BRS programs of particular relevance to sustainable agriculture include:

- Integrated Water Sciences;
- Landscape Sciences;
- Climate Impact Sciences; and
- Social Sciences.

The Integrated Water Sciences Program addresses water and salinity issues in Australia by working with Catchment Authorities and Landcare Groups to assess salinity hazard and risk, regional groundwater systems, water quality, sustainable yield and recharge rates, environmental issues, and acidity. This information is used in catchment planning and for national policy development and program implementation and has included the development of innovative ways to map salinity and use stream sampling, airborne electromagnetics, modelling techniques and other methods.

The Landscape Sciences Program coordinates the development of continent-wide regional and catchment scale digital data sets; undertakes remote sensing analysis of agricultural landscapes; and develops decision support tools to assist land management, greenhouse and climate change, weed and feral animal management and agricultural biotechnology issues.

The Climate Impact Sciences Program provides climate services, ranging from assessments of drought and Exceptional Circumstances applications, through to developing new tools and techniques for producers and industry to deal with climate variability and climate change.

The Social Sciences Program provides a range of services to support and enhance the uptake and promotion of sustainable agriculture including surveys to understand landholder behaviour and social profiling to understand community capacity for managing change.

Source and Further information: <http://www.affa.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Core 4, Level 2, Wing 5
Edmund Barton Building
corner of Kings Avenue and Macquarie Street
Barton, ACT

Postal Address: GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

General Enquiries: Telephone: (02) 6272 4282
Email Address: info@brs.gov.au

6.3 Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE)

ABARE is the economic research agency within DAFF focusing on providing professionally independent economic research and forecasts, and policy analysis to enhance both the competitiveness of Australia's agricultural, fishing, forestry, energy and minerals industries, and the quality of the Australian environment. Over time its research and analysis has contributed to a range of issues relevant to sustainable agriculture, including:

- multilateral trade negotiations and more open agricultural markets;
- greenhouse gas emissions and climate change response policies;
- water policy reform;
- salinity management;
- issues in regional Australia; and
- Australian farm performance.

Each year ABARE produce industry reports on the wool, prime lamb, grains and beef industries, among others. These reports inform the drive for efficiency gains and provide a factual basis for the further development of these industries. The information in these reports is mainly based on farm survey data and helps farming industries to analyse the issues that they face in the coming years, including natural resource management issues.

In terms of sustainable agriculture ABARE also undertakes surveys, research and analysis with a focus on the following areas:

- Economic instruments to encourage adoption of sustainable agriculture practices;
- Water policy reform;
- Environmental flows and water trade;
- Water use efficiency and irrigation;
- Sustainable land management options at a region or catchment scale;
- Landcare (Program monitoring and specific project analysis);
- Salinity; and
- Efficiency and productivity of agriculture.

Source and Further information: <http://www.abareconomics.com/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Edmund Barton Building,
Corner of Broughton and Macquarie Sts
Barton, Canberra ACT

Postal Address: GPO Box 1563
Canberra ACT 2601

General Enquiries: Telephone: (02) 6272 2000

6.4 Cooperative Research Centres

Cooperative Research Centres, generally known as CRCs, bring together researchers from universities, CSIRO and other government laboratories, and private industry or public sector agencies, in long-term collaborative arrangements. These collaborative arrangements support research, development and education activities on issues of national economic and social significance.

The CRC program emphasises the importance of developing collaborative arrangements between researchers as well as between researchers and research users in the private and public sector. This is intended to maximise the benefits of publicly funded research through an enhanced process of commercialisation and/or utilisation of that research. They also create a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional research environment focussed on addressing industry and user needs.

As at April 2004 there were 70 CRCs operating in the following sectors:

- Manufacturing Technology;
- Information and Communication Technology;
- Mining and Energy;
- Agriculture and Rural Based Manufacturing;
- Environment; and
- Medical Science and Technology.

CRC's active in areas of direct relevance to sustainable agriculture fall within either the Agriculture and Rural Based Manufacturing or Environment Sectors of the CRC system. The CRC's included in these sectors are listed below:

<i>Agriculture & Rural Based Manufacturing Sector</i>	<i>Environment Sector</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Australian Cotton CRC; ▪ Australian Sheep Industry; ▪ Cattle & Beef Quality; ▪ Innovative Dairy Products; ▪ Molecular Plant Breeding; ▪ Sustainable Aquaculture of Finfish; ▪ Sustainable Production Forestry; ▪ Sustainable Rice Production; ▪ Tropical Plant Protection; ▪ Value Added Wheat; and ▪ Viticulture. ▪ Irrigation Futures CRC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Antarctica & Southern Ocean CRC; ▪ Australian Weed management; ▪ Biological Control of Pest Animals; ▪ Catchment Hydrology; ▪ Coastal Zone, Estuary & Waterway Management; ▪ Conservation & management of Marsupials; ▪ Freshwater Ecology; ▪ Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Areas; ▪ Greenhouse Accounting; ▪ Plant Based Management of Dryland Salinity; ▪ Sustainable Tourism; ▪ Tropical Rainforest Ecology & Management; ▪ Waste Management & Pollution Control; and ▪ Water Quality & Treatment.

Source & Further Information on CRC's: <http://www.crc.gov.au/>

7. State & Territory Agencies

7.1 Australian Capital Territory

7.1.1 Environment ACT

Environment ACT is the agency within the ACT Government with responsibility for the management and development of the Territory's agriculture sector.

The relative roles and responsibilities of the ACT Government and individual leaseholders in relation to sustainable farming practices are set out in the Lease Management Agreements entered into by the government and leaseholders. These agreements cover environmental factors such as the management of offsite impacts, soil condition, water quality and riparian zones, pests plants and animal sites of significant environmental and heritage value as well as drought and bushfire risk management.

There are many initiatives provided by the ACT Government provides measures for the management of unreserved rural lands. These initiatives continue to addresses the engagement of the community in landscape renewal and protection of high conservation value remnant vegetation. ACT River Rescue program is aimed at scaling up rehabilitation of rivers, streams and degraded drainage lines, with the aim of achieving multiple benefits of soil stabilisation, biodiversity conservation and water quality improvements. The initiatives operate by providing financial assistance for the conservation of biodiversity in off-reserve land. Assistance is accessed through the Catchment management groups.

Environment ACT also manages joint NRM programs and provides a range of information services (including field days etc). Technical advice and printed information is to inform leaseholders in advancing sustainable agriculture from landcare facilitators and coordinators.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: 12 Wattle Street, Lyneham ACT 2602

Postal Address: PO Box 144, Lyneham ACT 2602

General enquiries: Helpline: 02 6207 9777

Further contact details: <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/corporate/contactus.html>

7.2 New South Wales

7.2.1 New South Wales Department of Agriculture

NSW Agriculture is the NSW agency with responsibility for the management and development of the agriculture sector. Its advisory staff disseminates the results of research to help farmers, graziers and horticulturists apply best practice in their farm management strategies. A comprehensive regional laboratory network provides diagnostic and analytical services for plant and animal health.

NSW Agriculture conducts scientific research, covering almost all areas of farm production and marketing, including crops, livestock, pastures, horticulture and nursery products. It also operates two agricultural colleges, one of which (Tocal) offers residential courses.

A summary of the strategies pursued by NSW Agriculture in promoting sustainable agriculture and a brief outline of some of their more relevant components follows:

Agricultural Production Strategies

- Facilitating the adoption of best management practices for agricultural industries industry adoption of environmental management systems and other quality assurance processes;
- Promoting the adoption of property management planning;
- Developing alternative farming systems that better suit soil and climatic conditions;
- Promoting the long-term economic, environmental and social benefits of sustainable agriculture to farmers and the general community;
- Informing rural communities of the role and use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals and biological pest control in sustainable agriculture.

Land Management Strategies

- Developing awareness of the need to minimise adverse off-site impacts of land management practices;
- Improving awareness and assessment of the causes, symptoms and impacts of soil degradation;
- Promoting native vegetation and biodiversity in agricultural land management;
- Developing management practices and farming systems that conserve and enhance the health of soil resources;
- Promoting integrated weed, pest and disease management strategies and best management practices; and
- Promoting the optimal use of fertilisers and the use of organic wastes from urban, industrial and agricultural activities.

Water Use and Quality Strategies

- Promoting management practices that contribute to the improved management of rivers and riverine ecosystems, estuaries, groundwater and wetlands associated with agriculture;

- Developing land and water management plans in irrigated agricultural areas that overcome water degradation and provide for long-term irrigation community viability; and
- Providing government incentive programs that improve the sustainable use of water by agriculture.

Nature Conservation on Farms Strategies

- Promoting farming systems that conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Rural Communities Strategies

- Facilitating the structural adjustment of agricultural industries and rural communities to enhance the sustainability of agriculture, including the provision and effective use of rural adjustment assistance.
- Integrated Management Strategies
- Implementing policies to encourage the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.
- Using Total Catchment Management and Landcare principles and plans to ensure that the off-site impacts of agriculture are considered and managed effectively.
- Ensuring land use planning is undertaken in ways that avoid conflict that may jeopardise agriculture's sustainability; and
- Identifying lands and farming methods best suited to specific agricultural industries and retain production options for those lands in the future.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: 161 Kite Street
Orange NSW 2800

Postal Address: Locked Bag 21
Orange NSW 2800

General enquiries: Phone: 02 6391 3100
Fax: 02 6391 3336
E-mail: nsw.agriculture@agric.nsw.gov.au

Further contact details: <http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/office>

7.2.2 NSW Rural Assistance Authority

The NSW Rural Assistance Authority, on behalf of the Commonwealth and State Governments, administers assistance measures to rural producers and small businesses. The current package of assistance measures includes the following programs:

- Special Conservation Loan Scheme;
- Natural Disaster Loans;
- FarmBis – Skilling for the Future;

- Exceptional Services (Interest Rate Subsidy);
- West 2000 Plus; and
- MIA PowerACT Rural Partnership Program.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Postal Address: NSW Rural Assistance Authority
Locked Bag 23
ORANGE NSW 2800

General enquiries: Phone: (02) 6391 3000; toll free: 1800 678 593
E-Mail: rural.assist@raa.nsw.gov.au

7.2.3 Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR)

DIPNR is the NSW agency with responsibility for land-use and transport planning, infrastructure development and natural resource management.

DIPNR has a focus on:

- strategic advice and direction setting;
- policy development
- regulation and compliance;
- resource allocation and resource assessment;
- assessment and approvals for land use management and natural resource allocation;
- research, advice and education;
- co-ordination and prioritisation.

In relation to sustainable agriculture DIPNR:

- co-ordinates and integrates assessments for natural resource allocation and land use management for infrastructure, forestry and other development and land uses;
- manages access to natural resources, such as water, through regulation, licensing and pricing
- oversees the allocation of financial resources in the form of grants or annual budgets to catchment management authorities, local government organisations and other non government agencies;
- leads negotiations with the Commonwealth government on national natural resource policy water reform and the administration of the NAP and NHT;
- ensures compliance with laws administered by it and carries out audit activities of the performance of catchment management authorities;
- monitors and supports the performance of local government in respect of their application of land use regulation and development controls;
- undertakes research to inform the areas within its responsibility; and
- engages in public education on natural resource conservation and management, land use planning, energy conservation and flood mitigation.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.dipnr.nsw.gov.au> and
<http://www.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: 23-33 Bridge Street SYDNEY NSW
Postal Address: GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001
General enquiries: Telephone: (02) 9228 6111
Email: information@dipnr.nsw.gov.au

7.3 Northern Territory

7.3.1 Primary Industry and Fisheries Agency

The Primary Industry and Fisheries Division of the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD) assists and promotes the development of the Northern Territory's primary industries. It contributes to the growth of these industries through research and development activities and the provision of advisory and information services to individuals, corporations and industry bodies. Aspects of their work program relevant to promoting sustainable agriculture include:

Research and Development into:

- Applied animal and plant production for Semi-Arid Tropics and Desert regions of Australia;
- Sustainable management of intensive and rangeland pastoral systems;
- Sustainable production of horticultural and agricultural crops under irrigation; and
- Sustainable management of the northern Australian fisheries resource.

Sustainable Development and Extension Services:

DBIRD conducts many projects in conjunction with industry and national funding bodies to evaluate and promote sustainable practices across pastoral, horticultural, mixed farming and fisheries industries. Projects such as sustainable cotton management systems for northern Australia, stocking rate and rangeland management as well as irrigated crop management are conducted on private farms in many instances.

DBIRD extension works with grower groups in aspects of Property Management Planning, water and soil conservation, rangeland management and pest and weed control. DBIRD also plays a role in chemical safety and chemical residue management through its involvement in training and the Drum Muster Scheme. Producers are encouraged to attend workshops and training courses through financial assistance from the FarmBis Program.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.nt.gov.au/dbird/dpif>

Contact Details:

Street Address:	Berrimah Farm, Makagon Road, Berrimah Northern Territory 0828
Postal Address:	GPO BOX 3000 Darwin NT 0801
General enquiries:	Fergal O’Gara: Agriculture and Irrigation Dept. Business Industry and resource Development Business: (08) 8999 2233 Fax: (08) 8999 2043
Further contact details:	http://www.nt.gov.au/dbird/dpif/general/contacts.shtm !

7.3.2 NT Department of Infrastructure Planning & Environment (DIPE)

The Department was established to enable Government to coordinate planning and development of the Territory’s economic infrastructure, while taking into account the need to protect and conserve the natural environment and heritage values and to achieve efficiencies in delivering services to Government and the community.

DIPE works to ensure sustainable use of the natural environment. It does this through the identification and description of the resource base, integrated regional planning, policy development and regulatory measures, cooperative management of a representative park system, and wildlife management (including feral animals, weeds and fire management).

Activities of DIPE that are more directly related to sustainable agriculture include:

- providing policy advice to Government regarding the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;
- research and advice on biodiversity conservation on pastoral lands;
- collecting, managing and interpreting data about the capacity of land and water resources to help identify and manage prospective development and conservation areas;
- providing specialist mapping and flood forecasting services;
- integrating support, advice and regulatory services;
- administering Commonwealth grant schemes for natural resources management; and
- providing integrated pastoral lease administration as well as monitoring and support services to Government, pastoralists and the Pastoral Land Board.

More specifically, the Land and Water Advisory Service within the Conservation and Natural Resources Group of DIPE, offers information to land managers and individuals on a wide range of biodiversity, land and water issues, covering:

- ground water/bore water development including advice on the potential of individual properties as well as bore site selection and construction;
- soil capacity and vegetation management (including land clearing);

- rainfall, water drainage, storage and irrigation; and
- Integration of biodiversity conservation and production.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.lpe.nt.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: 38 Cavenagh Street, Darwin City 0800

Postal Address: GPO Box 1680 Darwin NT 0801

General enquiries: Ph: (08) 8999 8911

Further contact details: <http://www.lpe.nt.gov.au/advis/default.htm>

7.4 Queensland

7.4.1 Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries (DPI&F)

DPI&F promotes profitable primary industries in Queensland by working with primary industries at all stages of the industry lifecycle and along the value chain. DPI&F focuses on: industry development; smart science; innovation and the commercial uptake of new technology; food integrity; smart, market-driven food and fibre production; sustainable production systems; and successful rural businesses.

DPI&F activities relating to sustainable agriculture include:

Policy analysis and industry development addresses issues that cover industry development, sustainable production systems, trade development, industry change and policy coordination, underpinned by industry and economic analysis.

Research and development

DPI&F has more than 1500 staff across Queensland undertaking research and providing advice to support profitable primary industries in plant and livestock production, sustainable production systems, climate variability, biotechnology, product development, including consumer testing, packaging, storage and transport, aquaculture, forestry research and wood products, and food safety.

Rural industry business services

DPI&F supports innovators in business and marketing leading to more profitable enterprises. It builds the capacity of industry and enterprises to develop new products, identify market opportunities, create smarter enterprise strategies — such as new industries — and add value to existing output. It supports this by promoting change and risk management in regional enterprises.

Information services

DPI&F provides a suite of information management services designed to enhance access by farmers and land managers to timely, accurate data and

information to promote the adoption of more sustainable and profitable production systems.

Business and farm management support

The FarmBis program is a joint initiative between the Australian Government and the Queensland Government that provides financial assistance to primary producers and land managers to undertake business and natural resource management training and related education activities.

Financial counselling services are also available to assist primary producers to understand their financial position and identify and assess options and strategies to resolve problems.

The Futureprofit program assists property managers realise the opportunities associated with strategic planning.

Biosecurity

DPI&F also provides the policy framework and regulatory and business services to protect Queensland industries and communities from animal and plant pests and diseases.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Primary Industries Building,
80 Ann St, Brisbane Queensland

Postal Address: GPO Box 46,
Brisbane, Queensland 4001

General enquiries: Telephone: 13 25 23

Further contact details: <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/>

7.4.2 Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (NRM&E)

NRM&E is the Queensland Government Agency with responsibility for ensuring the sustainable management and use of Queensland's land, water, vegetation, mineral and petroleum resources.

To do this, the department works with the community to develop and implement plans, policies and evaluation systems. Its roles and activities include:

- administrative functions (e.g. land titling, valuations);
- regulatory functions (e.g. issuing of permits and licences);
- science and research;
- assessment and monitoring of natural systems; and
- risk monitoring.

More specifically in relation to maintaining the State's land, water and vegetation NRM&E:

- supports the management of land resources, including tenure;
- works with landholders to promote sustainable land use by assisting in the assessment of land degradation risks, the setting up of sustainable management systems, and the control of weeds and pest animals;
- formulates policies, plans and evaluation systems to optimise access to and use of the State's water and riverine quarry materials;
- continually monitors and assesses water quality and quantity; develops water resource plans to determine current and future water demands and allocation priorities;
- in consultation with the community, implements a comprehensive system of native vegetation management across all tenures to achieve:
 - ecologically sustainable management ;
 - protection of biodiversity and other environmental and social values; and
 - planning certainty for landholders, industry and the community.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: NR&M Central Office
Mineral House
41 George Street, Brisbane

Postal Address: GPO Box 2454 Brisbane, Queensland 4001

General enquiries: General inquiries including Water, Land, Vegetation and Pest Management: (07) 3896 3111

Further contact details: <http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/about/contactus/index.html>

7.5 South Australia

7.5.1 Primary Industries & Resources (PIRSA)

PIRSA is the South Australia agency with responsibility for fostering the development of sustainable and competitive primary industries in that state.

PIRSA activities associated with promoting sustainable agriculture are predominantly managed within the Agriculture Food and Fisheries Division of the Department. These activities include:

- Industry Development covering livestock and meat Industries, field crop industries and horticultural business;
- Regulation and Protection covering animal and plant health as well as emergency management;
- Policy Support covering development and land use planning as well as environmental and water management policy;

- Rural Communities and Rural Adjustment covering a range of capacity building programs including FarmBis and leadership development, as well as response to adverse seasonal conditions.
- Sustainable Agricultural Systems - active participation in integrated programs in natural resources management through the National Landcare Program, Natural Heritage Trust and National Plan for Salinity and Water quality, with particular focus on joint initiatives with the lead agency, the Dept. of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

Additional relevant activities managed within PIRSA include:

- Research and Development activities managed and undertaken by the South Australia Research and Development Institute (SARDI) operating in five strategic areas including Crops, Horticulture, Livestock Systems and Sustainable Systems; and
- Consulting services provided by Rural Solutions SA to government and industry on agriculture, agribusiness and natural resource management. These services have focus on sustainable production technologies and systems and also include the development of revegetation and vegetation enhancement programs.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: Level 14,
25 Grenfell Street,
Adelaide 5000

Postal Address: GPO Box 1625
Adelaide SA 5001

General enquiries: Phone: (08) 8226 0222

Further contact details: <http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pages/showcase/pirsacontacts.htm>

7.5.2 Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC)

DWLBC is responsible for policy development and management of South Australia's natural resources. The agency provides advice and delivers a range of policies and programs, on practices relating to the integrated management of productive land and water resources.

DWLBC deals with issues such as pastoral management, water management, animal, plant and pest control and land care. It also aligns South Australia's water, land and biodiversity efforts with key Federal initiatives including the National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality, and the Natural Heritage Trust, and is the lead agency on issues related to management of the water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin, in particular the River Murray.

DWLBC activities associated with sustainable agriculture include:

- land management activities covering soil conservation district planning, property management and planning, environmental services, sustainability indicators and supporting Landcare South Australia;
- water management activities including managing water permits, licences and infrastructure and remedial projects, supporting Catchment Water Management Boards; management of the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement, and the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement; and implementation of the South Australian Salinity Strategy and the (draft) River Murray Environmental Flows Strategy;
- managing and supporting NRM, Pastoral and Native Vegetation legislation and the River Murray Act;
- managing the impact of pest plants and animals on primary industries and the natural ecosystems;
- providing a range of technical services (including drilling, geophysical, groundwater and surface water monitoring);
- supporting research and providing information services on NRM technologies, practices and methodologies and advice to government and non-government clients who are involved in sustainable land management, land resource; and
- monitoring and evaluating the status and condition of natural resources and the level of sustainable resource allocation conservation in South Australia.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/> and <http://sustainableresources.pir.sa.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address:	Grenfell Centre, 25 Grenfell Street Adelaide SA
Postal Address:	GPO Box 2834, Adelaide SA 5001
General enquiries:	Phone: (08)8463 6800
Further contact details:	http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/about/contact.html

7.6 Tasmania – Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE)

DPIWE has been established to manage the State's natural resources - our air, land, water, plants and animals. Divisions within DPIWE with most direct application to sustainable agriculture include:

Resource Management and Conservation

Manages and conserves Tasmania's natural resources including: land; flora; fauna; and geo-heritage.

Water Resources

Responsible for a range of water related functions including: the implementation of the Water Management Act 1999 and the Water Development Plan; designing policy and regulatory frameworks for the equitable, efficient and sustainable provision and use of surface and ground

ALC Compendium on Sustainable Agriculture (August 2004)

water resources; facilitating water infrastructure development projects; and monitoring and assessing Tasmania's freshwater resources.

Environment

Provides strategic planning, protection and enhancement of the Tasmanian environment by ensuring development proposals meet appropriate environmental guidelines.

Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

Provides a range of services contributing to Tasmania's agricultural, marine aquaculture and fisheries industries, including marine resources, diagnostic services, business development (e.g. Farmbi\$), food quality and safety, quarantine services and agriculture.

Research & Development

A number of organisations including the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR) undertake research and development activity to support innovative and sustainable agricultural industries.

Information and Land Services

Provides land information services and products, including survey systems and services, maps, consulting services for property valuations, land title information and the administration of Crown Land.

Programs of relevance to Sustainable Agriculture:

FarmBis

A Federal/State program that providing funding to farmers, fishers and natural resource managers for business management training.

Rural Support Tasmania

A confidential and free service, providing information and support for the farming community.

Training Courses, Field Days & Workshops

Providing opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills.

Exceptional Circumstances & Farm Management Deposits

Providing information on the Federal Government's Exceptional Circumstances Program and background information on Farm Management Deposits.

Clean Products Program

Enhancing the production of clean crops in a sustainable manner.

Southern Farming Systems Tasmania

A farmer-driven, non-profit organisation undertaking research and extension in the 'high rainfall and cool climate' regions of Australia.

TOPCROP

A farmer-focussed information network based on monitoring and setting targets for crops, pastures and finances.

Agricultural Economics & Management Program

Providing information on cash crops and livestock enterprise budgets for low and high rainfall districts in Tasmania.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: 1 Franklin Wharf
Hobart TAS 7001
Postal Address: GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania 7001
General enquiries: Phone: 1300 368 550 or 03 6233 8011
Further contact details: <http://directory.tas.gov.au/>

7.7 Victoria

7.7.1 Department of Primary Industries (VDPI)

Within VDPI, the Divisions of Regional Services & Agriculture and Primary Industries Research Victoria have the prime responsibility for improving the profitability and market competitiveness of agricultural industries whilst ensuring that such operations remain sustainable and environmentally responsible. The Department aims to achieve this through its research, industry development and extension activities. The Division employs approximately 2000 staff statewide, spread over 30 office locations.

Programs and activities related to sustainable agriculture

Research Platforms

13 Victorian research platforms cover a broad range of areas from sustainable production systems, pastures and crops, pest control, and food processing, to resource management and conservation. Information and the results of their research are made available through brochures, information sheets, booklets, reports and scientific papers.

BeefCheque

A co-operative project involving VDPI, the Beef Improvement Association and Meat and Livestock Australia designed to increase farm profit through improved pasture utilisation.

Bestwool 2010

Supported by VDPI in conjunction with the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) and The Woolmark Company to deliver an industry owned and driven extension to improve profitability through the development of a more highly skilled and innovative industry.

EDGE network

ALC Compendium on Sustainable Agriculture (August 2004)

A joint project of Meat and Livestock Australia and DPI designed to motivate, expand expertise, develop skills, and accessing information to enable producers to make decisions more confidently. Areas covered include livestock, pasture and feed, finance, marketing, business development and developing people skills.

FarmBi\$

FarmBis is a joint Commonwealth / State Initiative administered by the Rural Finance Corporation in Victoria providing grants to subsidise training for farmers, land managers and wild catch fishers to improve their self-reliance and ability to manage profitable, competitive and sustainable businesses and environments.

FruitCheque

A facilitated extension project working with the fruit & nut growers to achieve best practice in their business.

GrapeCheque

An innovative program for the delivery of extension services to wine-grape growers to encourage high quality, sustainable business, and to provide access to best practice and quality management systems.

Prograze

Works in partnership with meat and wool industry stakeholders to develop more efficient, profitable and sustainable grazing strategies

Target 10

A large scale dairy industry extension program incorporating five key programs: pastures, nutrition, soil and fertilisers, dairy business focus and dairy farm performance analysis.

TopCrop

A farmer focussed information network based on monitoring and setting targets for crops, pastures and finances to increase profitability and sustainability.

VegCheque

A facilitated extension program which delivers information on sustainable production systems in a flexible way to enable its best use on the farm and throughout the vegetable supply chain.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: 8 Nicholson St East
Melbourne 3002

General enquiries: Telephone: 136 186
Email: customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au

Further contact details: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/>

7.7.2 Department of Sustainability and Environment (VDSE)

VDSE works in partnership with farmers, Landcare groups, industry, catchment bodies and other key stakeholders to achieve sustainable development and conservation of Victoria's land and water resources. Its responsibilities include:

- Catchment Management;
- Conservation, Recreation and Public Land Stewardship;
- Water Sector Development and Services;
- Forests and Fire Management;
- Sustainability Policy and Programs;
- Sustainable Cities and Regions;
- Biodiversity;
- Heritage;
- Parks and Crown Land;
- Land Information; and
- Greenhouse and Sustainable Energy Policy.

Programs and activities related to sustainable agriculture

VDSE activities and programs of relevance to sustainable agriculture include:

- Natural Heritage Trust Programs, Salinity and Water Quality National Action Plan and Murray Darling Basin Commission initiatives;
- Stage Two Water Restrictions;
- Valuing Victoria's Water;
- Environmental Management Systems in Agriculture;
- Rural Land Stewardship and the development of conservation tools for private land managers
- Victorian Water Trust;
- Water Rebate - Save Water and be Rewarded;
- Irrigation Farm Dams - license before June 30;
- Farm Dams - Your Dam, Your Responsibility - A Guide to Managing the Safety of Farm Dams;
- Victorian Water Recycling Action Plan;
- Strategy For Sustainable Biosolids Management ;
- Health of Our Catchments; and
- Werribee Plains - A Vision for Sustainable Growth.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/>

Contact Details:

Street Address: 8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

General enquiries: DSE Customer Service Centre Phone: 136 186
Email: customer.service@dse.vic.gov.au

Further contact details: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/>

7.8 Western Australia

7.8.1 Western Australia – Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture's mandate is to accelerate the success of agriculture, food and fibre industries through information, science and innovation, responsible management of the resource base, policy and regulation across all elements of the supply chain.

Strategic outcomes are improved productive capacity and profitability of WA's agri-industry; improved ecological sustainable development; and effective management of biosecurity risks.

The Agricultural Resource Management program within the Department undertakes research and development in climate variability, plant and animal productivity, land management, salinity, soil acidity and water management covering dryland, irrigated and pastoral farming systems. This includes rehabilitation to counter the effects of recharge, erosion and nutrient loss.

The Department has a strong emphasis on biosecurity, working to protect Western Australia from the risks of introduced pests, diseases and weeds. As well as preventing new pests from gaining access, biosecurity involves managing established threats to improve productivity and welfare.

It also addresses resource management needs through regulation of plant and animal pests, clearing and drainage, and encouragement to protect bushland.

Relevant current projects in natural resource management include:

- assessing natural resource management risks throughout agricultural areas by 2006;
- salinity management including plant-based solutions and large scale demonstrations of salinity management techniques matched by community inputs;
- more than 60 Sustainable Grazing on Saline Lands research projects;
- certification of sustainable agricultural practices;
- catchment water management and land drainage;
- management of nutrient run-off from coastal catchments;
- land resource assessment and capability analyses; and
- monitoring resource condition trends.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/>

Contact details:

Street Address: 3 Baron-Hay Court, South Perth,
Western Australia 6151

Postal Address: Locked Bag 4,
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

General enquiries: Phone: 08 9368 3333
Email: enquiries@agric.wa.gov.au

8. Industry Sustainability Programs

8.1 Neighbourhood grain grower groups (TOPCROP)

Projects to support learning and technology delivery in the grains industry are supported by growers and the Federal Government through the GRDC. GRDC initially supported local grower groups through the TOPCROP project to assist growers to monitor and measure crop performance. More recently the concept has been expanded into a program targeting local grower groups and larger regional groups to help growers boost production, profits and sustainability through on-farm trials, crop monitoring, benchmarking and group discussions

The aims of GRDC's grower group projects are to:

- Assist Australian grain growers to maximise sustainable and profitable production of high quality grain through self directed groups;
- Develop training and information resources and tools that support group based training activities;
- Provide structured technical and group facilitation training for growers and their advisers;
- Develop crop monitoring systems and regularly updated production benchmarks on a local and regional basis; and
- Broaden the involvement of all members of the farming family in grains industry based group activities and other training opportunities.

The means for the transfer of new technology and innovation amongst grain grower groups and individuals include:

- Skills development in crop monitoring and benchmarking crop performance;
- Local group training through "in the paddock" single issue workshops that focus on specific production and management based issues;
- On-farm testing; and
- Informal grower led activities, such as demonstrations, examining new technologies and comparing different farming systems.

GRDC strongly supports the development of training and information packages and crop monitoring systems, in addition to supporting the development of group networks themselves. The aim of these efforts is to increase the sustainable and profitable production of high quality grain through self-directed groups.

Source & Further Information: www.grdc.com.au

Contact Details:

Ross Cutler, GRDC program consultant, rosscutler@mpx.com.au

Telephone: 03 5255 5614

Mobile: 0411 033 746

8.2 Southern Farming Systems

Southern Farming Systems commenced its operation in May 1995 as a non-profit farmer owned and operated group, with the aim of carrying out applied research in order to develop better adapted and more profitable farming systems for the "high rainfall, cool climate" zone of Southern Australia.

Since these beginnings the early group of 6 members has grown to more than 900, with support now from over 60 agribusiness organisations, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Grains Research and Development Corporation, CSIRO, Vizard Foundation and many others.

The single research site at Geelong has now expanded to 6 major research and demonstration sites including Streatham, Hamilton, Gippsland, Tasmania, and Naracoorte (SA). There are also numerous farmer satellite sites targeting specific issues throughout southern Victoria.

Source & Further Information: <http://www.sfs.org.au/>

Some Suggested Reading on Sustainable Agriculture

A Full Repairing Lease: Inquiry into Ecological Sustainable Land Management, Industry Commission.

Agriculture and the Environmental Imperative, eds Jim Pratley & Alistar Robertson, Charles Sturt Uni, 1998. CSIRO Publishing

Environmental Indicators for Sustainable Agriculture, Hamblin, A, 1992 (available from BRS).

Fixing the Foundations – the role of soil science in solving Australia’s crisis in land and water management – Australian Academy of Science 1999 (available from <http://www.science.org.au/soilrep.htm>).

Influencing Improved Natural Resource Management on Farms – a guide to understanding factors influencing the adoption of sustainable resource practices – Neil Barr & John Cary – Bureau of Rural Science August 2000

Profitable and Sustainable Farming Systems – Where are the \$’s. National – proceedings from the seminar 2-3 July 1998 Landcare Facilitator Project

Sustainable Agriculture, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture, SCA Technical Report Series - No. 36, CSIRO, 1991

Sustainability Indicators for Agriculture - Introductory Guide to Regional/National and On-farm Indicators, RIRDC Publication No. 97 / 72.

The Quest for Sustainable Agriculture and Land Use - Brian Roberts, 1995. UNSW Press.

Trees, Water and Salt – an Australian guide to using trees for healthy catchments and productive farms – RIRDC JVAP Research Update Series No1 – Publication No. 00/170 October 2000

Wildlife in the Home Paddock - Roland Breckwoldt - Angus & Robertson 1983.