



Australian Government

**Rural Research
and Development Council**

The National Strategic Rural Research and Development Investment Plan

**Dr Kate Grenot
Rural R&D Council Chair**

**AARES Conference Mini Symposium
10 February 2011 Melbourne**

Rural R&D Council

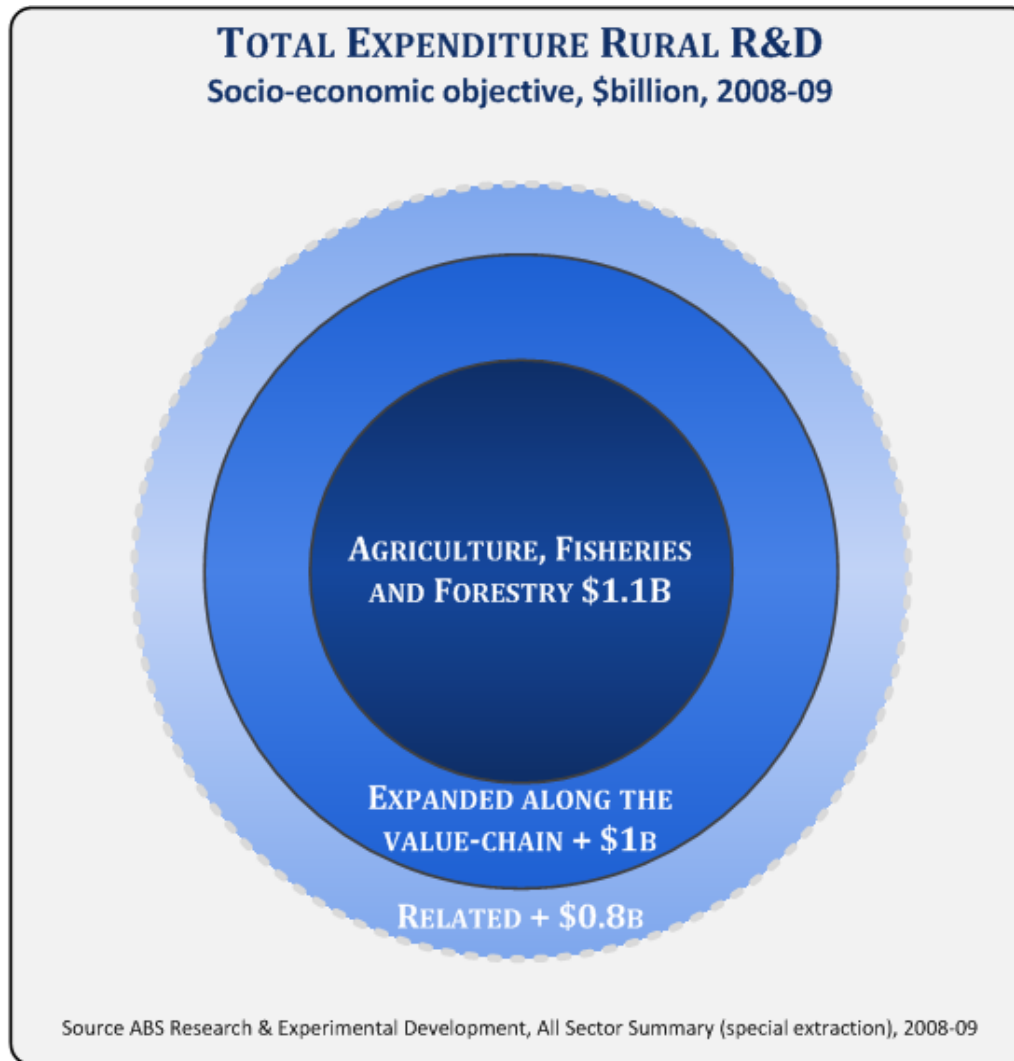
Established in 2009 to advise the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on matters of R&D in order to improve the productivity, profitability, sustainability and global competitiveness of Australia's agriculture, fisheries, forestry and food industries, with benefits for individual rural businesses, the environment and the wider community.

To develop a **National Strategic Rural R&D Investment Plan**

To establish a performance measurement and reporting framework

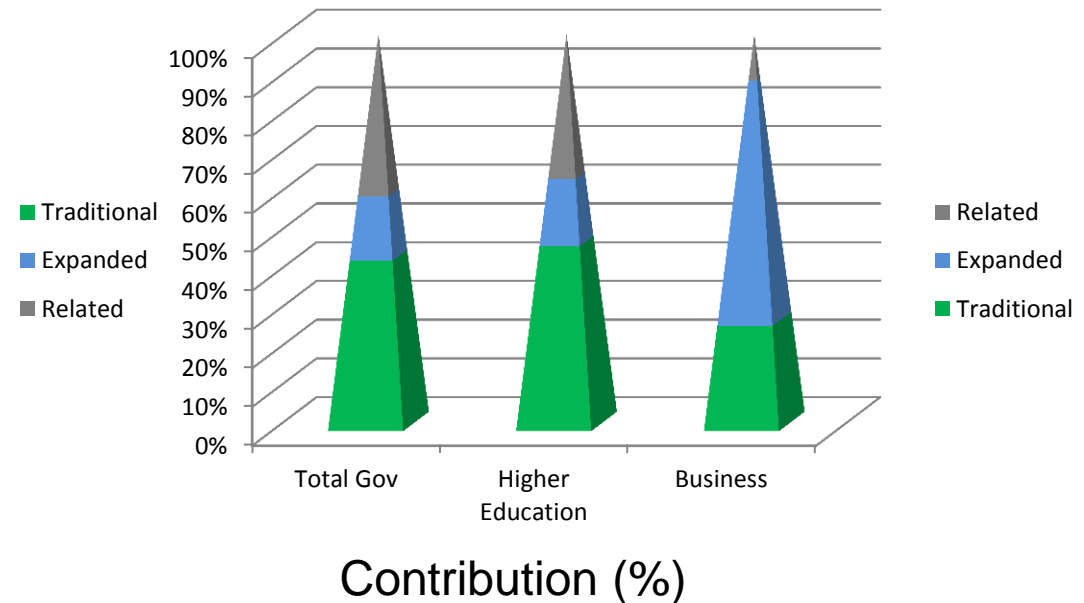
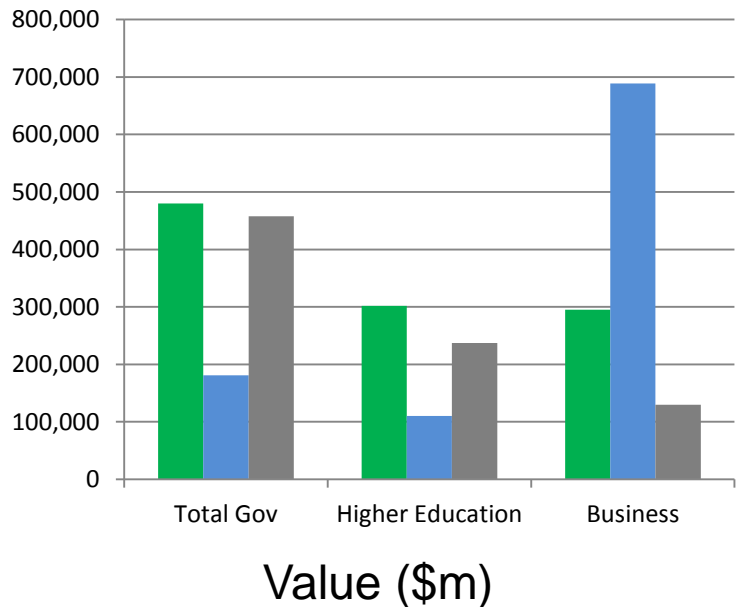
To foster cooperation, collaboration and capacity

A large and expanding system



total estimated expenditure in 2008-09: \$2.9 billion

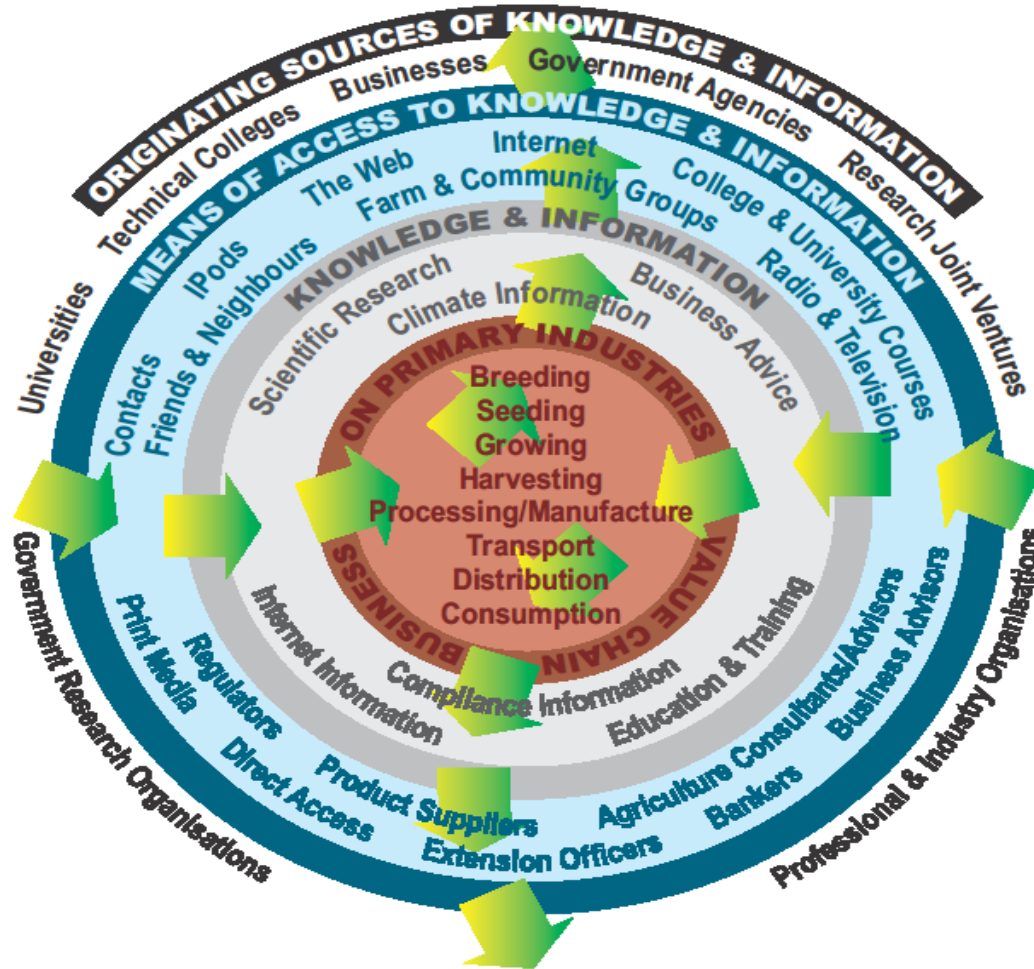
A mixture of government and business interests undertake rural R&D



expenditure by sector in 2008-09

Source ABS Research & Experimental Development,
All Sector Summary (special extraction), SEO, 2008-09

A complex system



Source: Primary Industries Standing Committee
R&D Sub Committee Extension Working Party

The importance of leadership

- Need for a system-wide approach
- Governance arrangements to guide more effective multi-sector cooperation and the prioritisation of investment
- Data and information systems to support performance measurement

Vision for the rural RD&E system

The rural RD&E system will play a lead role in increasing returns along value chains and throughout Australian communities by:

- doubling rural sector output over the next 30 years while consuming proportionally fewer resources
- developing a range of technologies and knowledge to contribute to healthy Australian lifestyles and global food security
- producing a wider product range, including food, fibre, energy and bio-based products in addition to ecosystem services

Investment goals

- Facilitate ongoing industry development and adaptation to change through RD&E
- Leverage innovation for growth along the value chain, with greater sharing of risk and reduced reliance on natural resources
- Integrate natural resource management with farming systems to use natural resources more efficiently

Investment goals (cont'd)

- Analyse and plan for climate change with sophisticated modelling to build understanding and develop adaptation practices and resilient systems
- Build human capacity, capital and capability through high-quality education and training
- Reward and retain world-class researchers through commitment above current investment levels

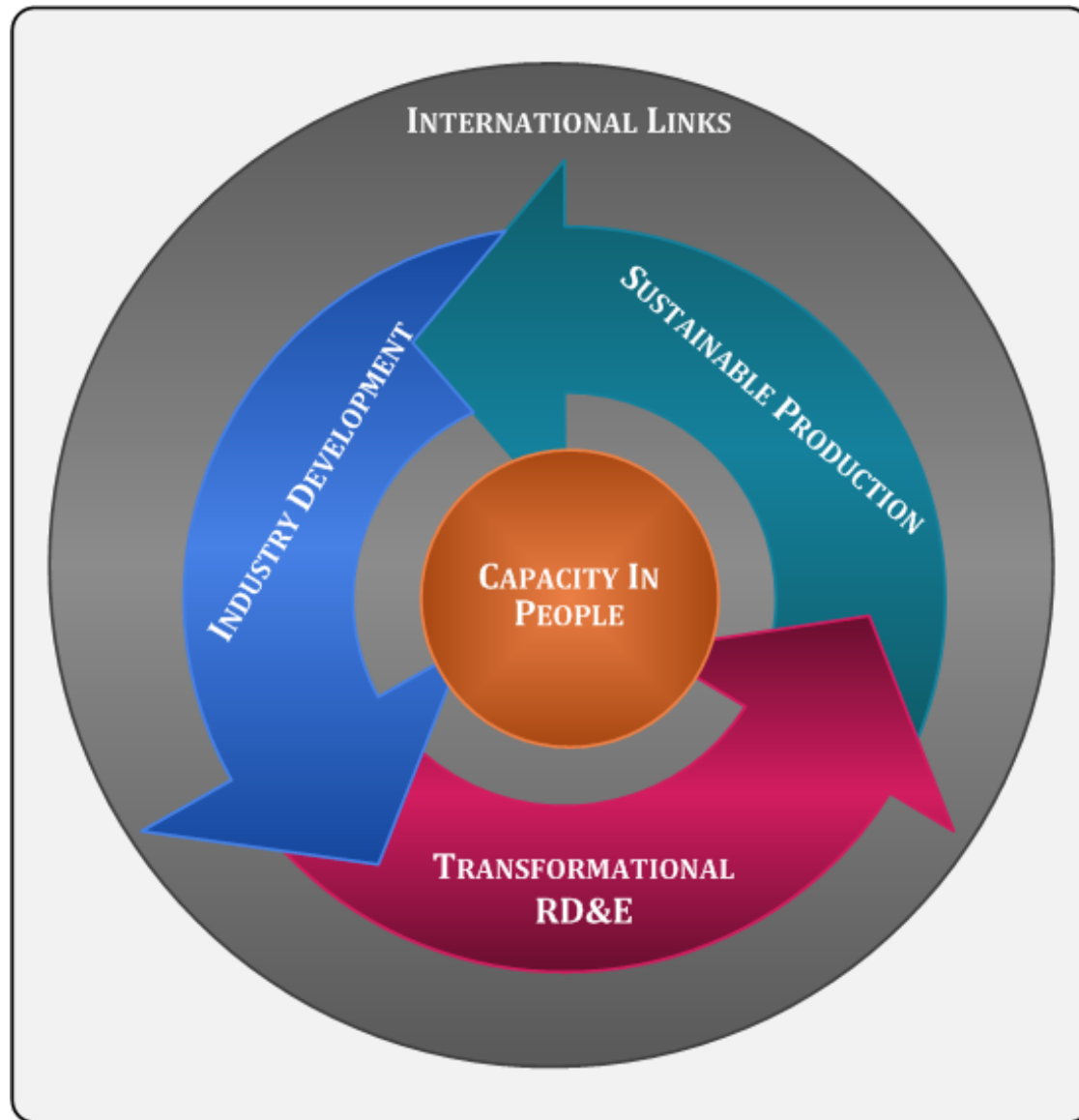
Investment goals (cont'd)

- Develop social research and tools that enable rural communities to embrace change, enhance adoption and manage the impact of change
- Develop elite genetic resources, emerging technology platforms and multidisciplinary capability for application to rural problems and opportunities
- Invest to support, and in some cases accelerate, cross-sectoral RD&E strategies, such as those relating to bioenergy/biofuels and food and nutrition
- Systematically link and collaborate with international groups to access funds, markets and knowledge to address shared Australian and global needs

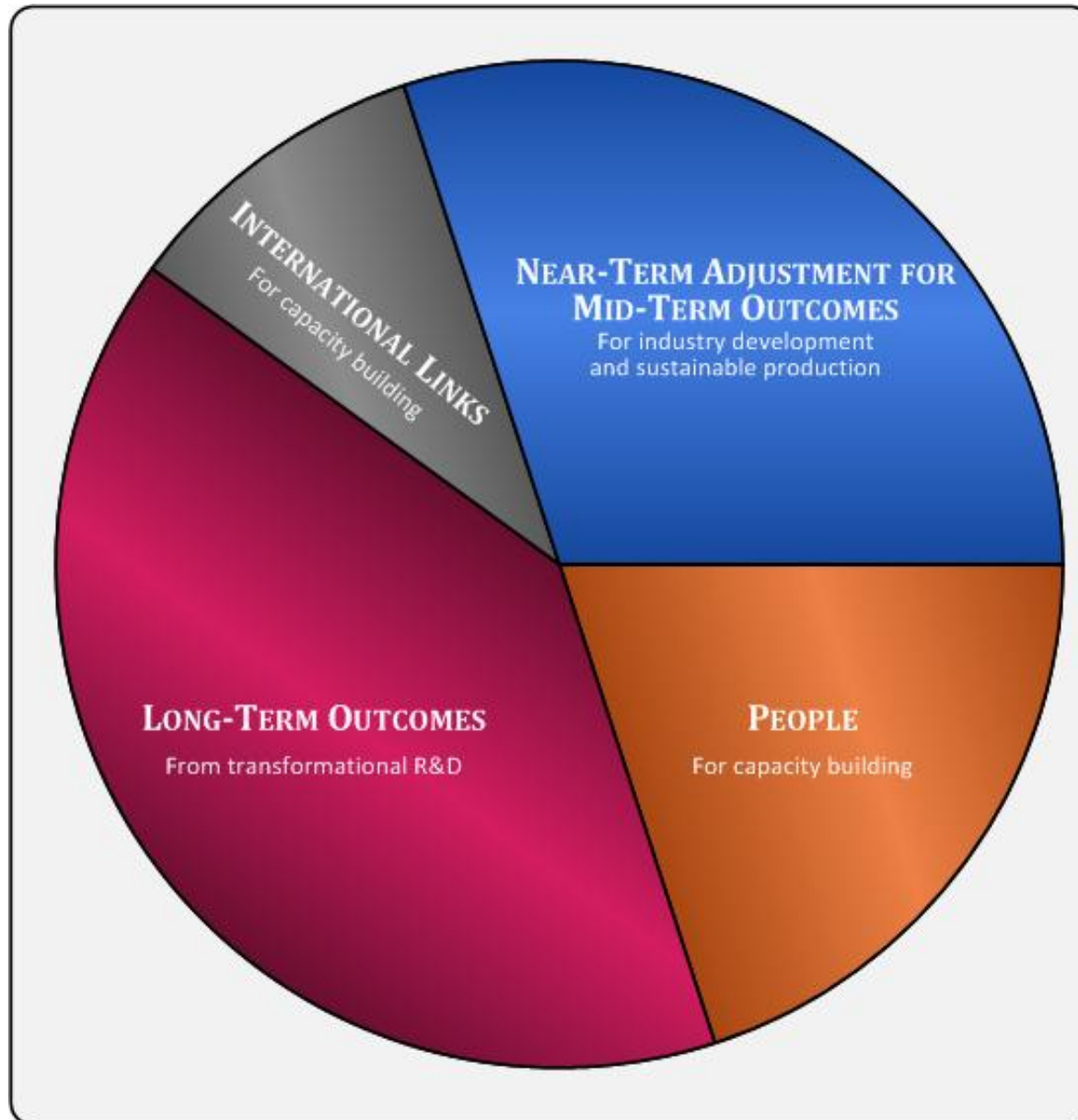
Consultation Period

- Draft findings
- Draft Recommendations
- Data
- Institutional Arrangements

Five priority areas for investment



Allocation of R&D investment to themes





Australian Government

**Rural Research
and Development Council**

Acknowledgements