Mr Rob Delane
Director General, DAFWA

Mr Rob Delane took up the appointment as Director General of the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA) on 2 November 2009.

Mr Delane has extensive knowledge of WA agriculture industries including tropical, temperate and rangelands regions, irrigated and dryland production, animal and plant industries, research and development, technology transfer and industry development, biosecurity and natural resource management, policy, regulation and promotion. He has held a number of national board and advisory committee positions.

He holds a Master of Science in Agricultural Science (1988) and a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Science with first class honours (1979) from the UWA.

In 2007 Mr Delane received a Public Service Medal for outstanding service to the agricultural industries and community of Western Australia.
Agricultural education meeting future industry needs

16 July 2010
WA agri-food export by industry 2009

- Cereals: A$3,071m (55%)
- Pulses, pastures and oilseeds: A$760m (14%)
- Meat and animals: A$911m (16%)
- Horticulture: A$133m (2%)
- Fisheries: A$340m (6%)
- Dairy and other animal products: A$69m (1%)

Total exports $6 billion (over 75% of total production)

Source: ABS/DAFWA
Top 10 markets for agriculture and fisheries exports, 2009

- Greater China: 16%
- Indonesia: 12%
- Korea, South: 7%
- Japan: 12%
- Iran: 8%
- Saudi Arabia: 4%
- Malaysia: 4%
- Netherlands: 3%
- Yemen: 3%
- Vietnam: 3%

Source: ABS/DAFWA
Global challenges

- Major skills shortage
- Population growth
- Food production
- Sustainability of critical resources
- Environmental concerns
- Climate change
- Global economic pressures
Global farm productivity growth is reducing.
Lessening productivity growth by State

TFP Growth (%)

- WA
- SA
- NSW
- VIC
- QLD
- TAS
- NT
- Australia

1978 to 2002
1978 to 2008
In 2008 only 16% of Australian farmers were less than 45 years old and the average age was 57. But 25 years ago 40% of farmers were less than 45 years old.
World Population towards 2050

- Now
- In 15 years
Food consumption

Beef consumption increase 50%
Pork consumption increase 30%
Chicken meat consumption increase 40%
Dairy product consumption increase 55%
Increasing market/industry focus on:

• Product quality
• Vertical integration (whole supply chain)
• Diversity in demand options
• Globalisation
• Environmental issues
• Welfare and ethical issues
Industry is moving towards

• Strong emphasis on responding to marketplace and customer requirements
• Address the supply chain limiters and catalysts
• Work in partnership and consultation with industry sectors
• Strengthen strategic planning and policy development
• Focus on critical opportunities and limitations on and off farm
• Responsiveness to evolving (global, national, regional) operating environment
What does it all mean
Government’s Commitment

“*It’s my job to make decisions that will lead to progressive and profitable agriculture and food industries – supporting communities and the WA economy*”

*Making every hectare count*

Hon Terry Redman MLA, Minister for Agriculture and Food

March 2009
Government’s Priorities

- Improving long term profitability of the sector
- Develop effective natural resource management policies
- Build industry capacity to develop and grow
- Improve market access for WA product
- Promote positive profile of the sector
DAFWA Role

Support economic development of the State by improving the long term profitability of the agriculture and food sectors.

DAFWA people making a difference
DAFWA’s Focus

- Priorities of government and industry
- Areas of supply chain where DAFWA can have the biggest impact
- R,D&E, NRM and Biosecurity will be driven by analysis of industry needs
- Modern, responsive, continuous improving organisation
- Innovation
Innovation

- What is needed?
- Has it been done before?
- Can we facilitate the solution?
- Is invention (R&D) required?
- Who is best to undertake the work?
To build business success, wealth and jobs we need to address the opportunities and limitations at each point of major supply chains

- government, industry, business roles
Emerging technologies or skills requirements

- Precision agriculture
- Agronomy systems
- Grain marketing and risk management
- Alternative products
- Organic production
- Use of molecular tools
- Alternative breeding varieties
- Animal nutrition
- Seed testing methodologies
- Logistics and supply chain
- Technology and other expertise outside traditional agriculture
- Alternative for grain feed
- Legislation (environment, welfare, other practises)
- Policy
Agricultural education:

• Increased demand for range of specialist skills
• Demand for in-house training
• Demand for post-graduate training
• Demand for more educated people
Skill sets for Industry

- Communication skills and rural empathy
- Technically sound
- Analytical skills
- Practical application of science and agriculture
- Farm management knowledge
- More emphasis on industry practice/experience
Thank you and questions?