

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture

Change at the Top

The Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture have elected Professor Richard Harper from Murdoch University, Western Australia as its new President to replace Professor Neal Menzies who has completed his two-year term. Professor Tony Gendall, La Trobe University, succeeds Professor Harper as ACDA Vice President.

Professor Harper indicated that he was delighted to be elected and paid tribute to the strong stable leadership of Professor Menzies over the past two years. Professor Harper commented that student enrolments are stronger now than at any time in the past decade, largely driven by the efforts of ACDA under Professor Menzies and his predecessors. "It shows that working together has enabled the Members to achieve much more than they could working separately. We have also been able to engage regularly with key leaders of the agricultural and education sectors with benefit to both parties." Professor Harper said.

In leaving the post Professor Menzies commented that research activity had also grown strongly since the ACDA had been formed. He commented that "it is perhaps not adequately recognised by the industries, funders and policy makers that Universities are a major force in agricultural research and a critical part of the innovation system in Australia. Universities are also the suppliers of high quality scientists to the other research agencies."

Professor Harper indicated that the main activities of ACDA will be maintained and he looks forward to the Council contributing to the momentum in the agriculture sector.

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