

*Working with Cattle, Reg Butler  
from the 2008 AB-CRC photographic competition.*

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## CEO REPORT

*Dr Stephen Prowse, CEO*



### Cooperative Research Centres Association (CRCA) award for innovation

It was with great pleasure that on behalf of the Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre (AB-CRC), I accepted the CRCA Award for Excellence in Innovation at the CRCA Annual Conference held last month in Canberra. The award was presented by the Honourable Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

As outlined later in this edition of *Sentinel*, the award is for the role the AB-CRC played in developing and applying an influenza test to eradicate equine influenza in Australia. This award is an acknowledgement and recognition of a lot of work by scientists in both partner and non-partner organisations. In particular, I want to acknowledge the involvement of Dr Hans Heine from CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL).

It is also important to acknowledge the important role of our colleagues in the State veterinary laboratories from Western Australia, Queensland, Northern Territory, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. Their commitment and participation in the transfer and validation process was critical to making this happen. I want to make specific mention of NSW Department of Primary Industries.

In addition, support from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Chicken Meat Program, Australian Egg Corporation and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry was critical in achieving this outcome.

Last but not least I want to acknowledge my colleagues at the AB-CRC who have a strong commitment to the communication and uptake of research outcomes, and their translation to impact. This was truly a collaborative team effort; congratulations to you all.

### The Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council

The Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC) met on 5 June 2009 at Parliament House in Canberra. PMSEIC is Australia's highest level body advising on important issues of science, engineering and innovation that impact on economics, public good, education, employment, security and sustainable development. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and discussed the new model for PMSEIC proposed by the Chief Scientist that incorporates a stronger focus on strategic foresighting outlined in the Australian Government's innovation plan *Powering Ideas - An Innovation Agenda for the 21st Century*.

A PMSEIC Expert Working Group report, *Epidemics in a Changing World*, was also tabled. I was a part of the Working Group which comprised key infectious disease researchers from some of Australia's leading universities and research centres. The Group presented a timely report to the Council on the scientific challenges faced by Australia in the event of a global epidemic affecting humans or animals. The report and the presentation are available on the PMSEIC website:

[www.innovation.gov.au/ScienceAndResearch/prime\\_ministers\\_science\\_engineering\\_innovation\\_council/Pages/twentiethmeeting.aspx](http://www.innovation.gov.au/ScienceAndResearch/prime_ministers_science_engineering_innovation_council/Pages/twentiethmeeting.aspx)













