



Advancing Rural Queensland

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AgForce's Lauren Hewitt named RIRDC Rural Women's Award Winner

AGFORCE Queensland today has much pleasure in congratulating its General Manager of Policy, Lauren Hewitt, as the 2014 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Rural Women's Award Winner.

Announced in Brisbane earlier today by Queensland Premier, Campbell Newman, the award will provide Lauren with funding to research improvement of farm profitability for broadacre agriculture by sharing knowledge of leasehold tenure and rent security and improving collaboration between leasehold jurisdictions. This policy area is something Lauren has dedicated a significant portion of her career to over a number of years and she is considered one of the foremost authorities on these issues in Australia.

AgForce General President, Ian Burnett, said he was delighted to see Lauren's hard work and commitment to the rural sector recognised through the prestigious RIRDC award.

"Lauren's passion for the rural industry rivals anyone's I know," Mr Burnett said.

"She is a tireless advocate for the sector and a true authority in the area of agricultural policy with her knowledge regularly drawn upon not only by AgForce but also government and other industry stakeholders."

Raised on a Queensland banana farm during the period of the emergence of 'environmental awareness', Lauren studied Applied Science and Law specialising in environmental law at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). After gaining graduate experience working for a large engineering and environmental consultancy firm she was employed as a policy researcher at AgForce in 2005, before taking on the role of General Manager of Policy in 2012.

"Much of Lauren's career has been spent at AgForce and her contribution to the organisation over that time has been immense," Mr Burnett said.

"I applaud her in taking out this award and look forward to seeing the results of the important work she will now be able to undertake for the benefit of the entire broadacre agriculture industry."

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For media enquiries, contact

AgForce media and communications: Stacey Milner 0418 733 102 or milners@agforceqld.org.au
Nadine Long 0427 626 853 or longn@agforceqld.org.au

Who is AgForce? AgForce represents thousands of Queensland broadacre producers who recognise the value in having a strong voice. AgForce leads the way to ensure agriculture's social, economic and environmental contribution is recognised

by all levels of government. AgForce works alongside landholders, encourages and supports the next generation, builds industry partnerships and skills and promotes agriculture - for secure, sustainable, progressive and profitable food and fibre into the future.