



Judith Troeth

Former Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

› [BACK](#) | [Home](#) | [Media Releases](#)

AFFA03/033T - 12 June 2003

M E D I A R E L E A S E

› **Future of Australian coffee brewing under R&D**

AFFA03/033T

12 June 2003

A new strategic research and development plan for Australia's burgeoning coffee industry places a strong emphasis on delivering a quality product to Australian consumers, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Senator Judith Troeth said today, while launching the industry's five-year R&D plan.

The strategic plan, which brings coffee growers together for the first time under a single, cohesive R&D strategy, reflects the significant development of the coffee industry over the past decade. It was developed by the industry, in partnership with the Commonwealth's Rural Industries R&D Corporation (RIRDC,) and underpins the industry's future.

"RIRDC has supported coffee R&D for more than a decade," Senator Troeth said. "It has played a key role in the adoption of new harvesting technologies, and in encouraging the industry to become more market-oriented."

Australia grows only the high quality Arabica coffee beans used in the specialty or roast and ground market. Senator Troeth said that we currently import around 12-15,000 tonnes of Arabica annually, which means there is enormous potential for industry growth in Australia.

"The new strategic R&D Plan will help the coffee industry expand and take advantage of market opportunities," the Senator said.

Australian coffee has a long history, with the industry establishing in northern NSW and Queensland in the 1880s. Early production met a significant part of the local demand; however, producers abandoned most of the early plantings because they could not compete with cheaper imports.

"It took the development of mechanical harvesting to rejuvenate the industry and, while our production costs remain relatively high, the quality of our coffee is superior," Senator Troeth

said.

"There are now around 740 hectares of coffee planted in Australia, and production is predicted to increase significantly when more areas begin commercial production," the Senator said. "In 2002, we produced over 500 tonnes of dry green bean, and production is expected to more than triple by 2008."

The Howard Government has demonstrated its commitment to achieving profitable, competitive and sustainable rural industries, with rural R&D spending growing from \$297 million in 1996-97 to an estimated \$450 million this financial year.

"The coffee industry, in partnership with the Government, is pursuing excellence in production and marketing through the new R&D plan," Senator Troeth said. "These are positive approaches that augur well for the future of coffee in Australia."

Further media inquiries:

Senator Troeth's office:

Allison Murphy (02) 6277 3002 or 0408 917 639.

<http://www.psmaff.gov.au/releases/03/03033t.html>

[© Commonwealth of Australia 2002-2004](#) | [Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry](#) | [Other DAFF Ministers](#) | [Prime Minister](#)

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.