



Media Release

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National bioenergy database to create new opportunities

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) today announced \$3 million funding support for the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC) to undertake a comprehensive biomass for bioenergy assessment.

ARENA CEO Ivor Frischknecht said the \$6.2 million project would uncover new opportunities and make it easier to develop biomass generation and biofuel projects in Australia.

“RIRDC will deliver a national database that brings together data on biomass resources across Australia, providing a clearer picture of where untapped sources of biomass are available,” Mr Frischknecht said.

“There is currently no central, national source of data to assist with planning of bioenergy projects and existing local data is incomplete.

“Australia’s growing bioenergy industry has cited this lack of reliable information as a significant roadblock to getting new projects off the ground.”

RIRDC will work with states and territories to collect data on the location, volumes and availability of biomass for inclusion on the ARENA-supported [Australian Renewable Energy Mapping Infrastructure \(AREMI\) platform](#).

AREMI is a centrally accessible repository for ARENA project information and shares mapping data and information with the renewable energy industry.

Mr Frischknecht said the new resource would build on existing work and assist project development and decision making.

“RIRDC will coordinate current efforts, as well as drawing on and updating existing info, to provide industry and researchers with an accurate estimate of bioenergy potential nationally,” Mr Frischknecht.

“The AREMI platform will enable RIRDC to geospatially map existing and projected biomass resource data alongside other parameters such as existing network and transport infrastructure, land use capability and demographic data.

“This will provide better linkages between biomass suppliers and end users and support local businesses to get more value from organic material destined for landfill, disposal or other low value uses.”

The first iteration of the database is planned for release in late 2016.

About ARENA

ARENA was established by the Australian Government to make renewable energy technologies more affordable and increase the supply of renewable energy in Australia. ARENA invests in renewable energy projects, supports research and development activities, boosts job creation and industry development, and increases knowledge about renewable energy. ARENA has a portfolio of more than 240 supported projects and is actively seeking new projects to fund in 2016

About Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC)

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation's (RIRDC) core business is to maintain and enhance the productivity of the rural industries it supports and to address national rural issues through government-industry partnership.

RIRDC is specifically charged with managing investment in RD&E for those primary industries which are too small to set up their own RD&E entity and to address multi-industry and national interest RD&E needs.

The Corporation is the primary funding source for RD&E that investigates the potential of new plant and animal industries for Australia, and for providing support to new industries as they mature and grow. RIRDC has helped several Australian industries grow to become established, world-leading industries, including the rice, chicken meat, and olive industries.