

## **MEDIA RELEASE – 23 February 2016**

### **RDA welcomes investment in irrigation development**

A widely supported initiative to develop irrigated agriculture in north-west Queensland will help create more regional jobs, according to Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland.

The State Government today announced, as part of a \$500,000 investment, the appointment of Dr Lance Pendergast to work with landholders and industry in the Flinders and Gilbert catchments.

RDA Chairman Paul Woodhouse said RDA congratulates the Australian and Queensland Governments, CSIRO, local governments and all others involved in the development of this initiative over many years.

“We welcome the appointment of Dr Pendergast to support the future growth and success of the Flinders River Agricultural Precinct,” Mr Woodhouse said.

“The development of this new irrigated cropping district over many years is a major regional economic initiative that will provide local and regional jobs well into the future.”

Dr Pendergast will apply research to a range of crops, including; cotton, rice and chickpeas, to develop a suite of northern farming systems.

Dr Pendergast will start work from his base in Townsville in early April.

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