

CAPACITY BUILDING

Sustainable agriculture, food security and the productivity of primary industries are vital issues for the future of Australia. Biometry is a discipline of statistics that develops and applies statistical theory and methods in the biosciences, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries in the primary industries sector and biomedical science and public health. The University of Wollongong and the CSIRO have partnered to ensure that this vital field of statistics continues to be viable in Australia by appointing Brian Cullis to the position of Professor of Biometry. The University of Wollongong was chosen to establish the inaugural Professor in Biometry, because of its very strong existing statistics group and its excellent and extensive track record of working effectively with industry and government organisations.

The appointment of Professor Cullis is also supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), who have identified the lack of sufficient statisticians available for research and development as a significant hindrance to their research program. The position will be charged with the responsibility to undertake the development and training of the next generation of biometricians. This project also has links to the University of Adelaide (Dr Olena Kravchuk) and Charles Sturt University (Professor Ken Russell).

To meet the future statistical needs of the grains industry, there needs to be increased and sustained training of students with the appropriate qualifications and education in mathematics and statistics. This project supports the appointment of an inaugural Professor in Biometry at the University of Wollongong and the concurrent development of an undergraduate, postgraduate and postdoctoral biometrics education program with a view to providing a pool of biometricians to service the ongoing statistical needs of the grains industry.

For further information, contact [Professor Brian Cullis](#).