To whom it may concern


The Tasmanian Government notes the separation of policy and regulation in relation to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and believes that protecting human health and safety and the environment from potential adverse effects of gene technology remains entirely appropriate. Although Tasmania maintains a moratorium on GMOs being commercially released into the environment, it remains committed to the national scheme for gene technology regulation to the extent that it does not constrain the State's ongoing ability to market Tasmanian produce as GMO-free.

We believe it is difficult to provide a technically-based submission to this Review as there are relatively few products developed with these technologies that have come to market to-date. We have contacted our agricultural industries in Tasmania and, whilst there is an open view on what new and emerging technologies may offer based on the opportunity that may present in the future, industry as a whole remains mindful of potential market impacts. Consequently, we have no strong view relating to preferences for regulating new and emerging technologies as outlined in the Discussion Paper: Options for regulating new technologies.

Tasmania makes the observation that depending on the eventual option chosen, there may be difficulties in enforcing compliance which could compound the regulatory burden. There remains a considerable trade risk with regulation of these new and emerging technologies as there is no consistent agreement at an international level.

We encourage the Regulator to remain involved in the international fora that seeks to harmonise regulation of these new technologies so some consistency can be reached.
There may also be an increased risk in regard to seed and grain imported into Australia and as such, the Regulator will need to work closely with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to develop protocols for sampling and testing for these new technologies. Our concern is in some instances, detection may not be possible. Lack of verification of GM status at the national barrier places jurisdictions that perceive value in GMO-freedom, such as Tasmania, in a difficult position.

Please contact [name], AgriGrowth Tasmania, within the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment on [number] or at [email] if you have any questions in relation to the above.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Primary Industries and Water