

# **Gene Technology Community Consultative Committee Meeting**

**15 March 2007, Canberra**

## **COMMUNIQUE**

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The Gene Technology Community Consultative Committee (GTCCC) held its tenth meeting in Canberra on 15 March 2007.

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GTCCC was established by the *Gene Technology Act 2000* (the Act) as a statutory advisory committee to the Gene Technology Regulator (the Regulator) and the Gene Technology Ministerial Council. All Committee members hold office on a part-time basis.

The 15 March meeting included a combined session with the Gene Technology Ethics Committee (GTEC).

The main items discussed were the development of the working group project on communication with local government authorities and developments in the area of genetically modified cotton. During the combined session with GTEC, the Committees discussed the *State, Territory and Australian Governments' Response to the Recommendations of the Statutory Review of the Gene Technology Act 2000 and the Gene Technology Agreement 2001*, and the GTCCC working group project on the current community consultation practices of the OGTR. Members of both Committees also received reports from the Chair regarding relevant events he has attended since the last GTEC and GTCCC meetings, and from the Regulator regarding the ongoing and completed work of the Office. Members were informed of relevant work from other national committees via cross-member reports.

### **GTCCC's Work Plan**

#### **Consultation with Local Government Authorities**

The Committee discussed the working group project on developing a strategy for enhancing communication between the OGTR and Local Government Authorities (LGAs). GTCCC agreed that effective communication with LGAs is a complex issue, and made a number of suggestions on how the Regulator could improve existing communication pathways.

#### **'Community Consultation and Participation'**

GTEC and GTCCC discussed the working group paper on 'Community Consultation and Participation', which was initiated by the original membership of GTCCC and further developed by the new membership.

The Committees agreed that the OGTR already has good systems in place for community consultation and suggested methods for evaluating the existing systems and identifying possible areas for improvement.

Review of the *Gene Technology Act 2000* (the Act) – All of Governments'  
Response

GTEC and GTCCC were given a presentation outlining the Governments' response to the recommendations of the Review of the Act. In particular, the members noted the recommendation to combine the roles of the two Committees.

**GTCCC and Relationships with Other Committees**

The Committee received reports from the Chair, the Gene Technology Regulator, the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee (GTTAC) and the Gene Technology Ethics Committee (GTEC).

**For all inquiries, please contact the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator on  
1800 181 030 (free-call)**