

Gene Technology Community Consultative Committee Meeting

23 August 2006, Canberra

COMMUNIQUE

The Gene Technology Community Consultative Committee (GTCCC) held its ninth meeting in Canberra on 23 August 2006.

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 new membership of GTCCC was appointed by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Christopher Pyne, for the term from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. The new membership of the Committee held its first meeting on 23 August 2006. The new members were welcomed to GTCCC and gave introductory statements about themselves. The members received reports on the operations and activities of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR), and on the financial procedures and operating procedures of the Committee. The members also received a presentation on public perceptions of gene technology from a representative of Biotechnology Australia.

GTCCC's Work Plan

Community Consultation and Participation

Members considered the discussion paper on *Community Consultation and Participation*, which was prepared by the previous GTCCC membership. The Committee resolved to form a working group to consider the recommendations of the paper and ways in which they may be put into practice.

Consultation with Local Government Authorities

As part of discussion about potential projects for the new Committee to undertake, members identified consultation with Local Government Authorities (LGAs) about gene technology issues as a priority area. The Committee resolved to form a working group to develop a strategy for enhancing communication between the OGTR and LGAs.

Review of the Gene Technology Act 2000

The Committee discussed the recommendations of the Statutory Review of the *Gene Technology Act 2000* and the Gene Technology Agreement. The Committee discussed in particular the recommendation that GTCCC and the Gene Technology Ethics Committee (GTEC) be combined. The Committee resolved to discuss this recommendation in more detail at the next meeting and consider drawing up a statement about the work it would like to see continued if the recommendation is approved by the Government and implemented.

GTEC 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).

Next Meeting

The next GTCCC meeting will be held early in 2007.

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