

16 December 2016



Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
MDP 54
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CANBERRA ACT 2601

email: ogtr@health.gov.au

Grower-driven advocacy for
a profitable grains industry

Re: Discussion paper – Options for regulating new technologies

Grain Producers SA (GPSA) is the peak industry body for South Australian grain producers. It is unique in that it is a non-political body that represents all grain producers to government, the community and industry. It is funded via the SA Grain Industry Fund (Primary Industries Funding Scheme) which nearly all grain producers in this state contribute to. GPSA is a founding member of Primary Producers SA.

The State's grain industries are large and diverse, making a significant contribution to the economy. Total grain production in South Australia from an estimated 3,000 grain producing businesses for the 2015-16 season was 7.2 million tonnes from 3.8 million hectares. With an estimated farm gate value of over \$1.8 billion and export value of \$2.2 billion, the grains industry is not only a major contributor to this state's economy it is also a significant export earner for this state.

As the peak body for grain producers in this State, GPSA would like to provide comment on the *technical review of the Gene Technology Regulations 2001 discussion paper*.

GPSA supports **Option 4: exclude certain new technologies from regulation on the basis of the outcomes they produce**. There is value in providing clarity as to what technologies are subject to regulation, and so provide certainty for researchers and industry.

GPSA looks forward to the results of this review and seeing the benefits that will flow to grain producers via potential productivity gains and genetic improvement. South Australia's food industry is vital to its economy. The industry generated more than \$16.4 billion revenue in 2014-15. Food exports from South Australia accounted for \$3.9 billion or 35% of total merchandise exports in 2014-15. The agribusiness sector employs approximately 1 in 5 South Australian workers.¹

If you have any queries or need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact Mr Darren Arney, Chief Executive GPSA on .

Yours sincerely

Wade Dabinett
Chairman
Grain Producers SA Ltd

¹ http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/premium_food_and_wine/food