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11 April 2018

Food Standards Australia New Zealand Level 4 15 Lancaster Place Majura Park ACT 2609

By email: NBTConsultSubmissions@foodstandards.gov.au

Re: Consultation paper - Food derived using new breeding techniques

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments to the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Consultation Paper on Food Derived Using New Breeding Techniques in relation to consideration of definitions in in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code for 'food produced using gene technology' and 'gene technology'.

About GTA

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) is the focal point for the commercial grains industry within Australia. It facilitates trade and works to provide an efficient, equitable and open trading environment by providing leadership, advocacy and commercial services to the Australian grain value chain.

GTA members are responsible for over 95% of all grain storage and freight movements made each year in Australia. Over 95% of the grain contracts executed in Australia each year refer to GTA grain standards and/or trade rules.

GTA members are drawn from all sectors of the grain value chain from production to domestic endusers and exporters. GTA members are involved in grain trading activities, grain storage, grain for human consumption and stock feed milling. A list of all members is attached.

Gene technology is an important issue for the grains industry and GTA has been actively involved in industry discussions on this issue globally via membership of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) and domestically via the GTA technical committee on Plant Breeding Innovation that brings together representatives from across the Australian grain and seed value chain. GTA's focus is on facilitation of trade and the implications of regulation or otherwise for trade.

Comment on the issues raised in the consultation paper

Given GTA's position in the food value chain, as indicated above, this submission makes comment on the broad definitional issues raised. It does not focus on specific technologies.

GTA supports the intent of the Review to provide clarity regarding whether pre-market assessment and approval is appropriate for food derived using a diverse range of breeding innovations, referred to by FSANZ collectively as 'New Breeding Techniques'. Lack of clarity and consistency of approach to these technologies within Australia, and globally, have the potential to raise issues for the trade.

GTA supports the use of new technologies that will enhance productivity and nutrition of our feed supply and potentially deliver these improvements faster and in a more precise manner. As such, GTA is generally of the view that food derived from plant varieties developed through the plant breeding innovation should not be differentially regulated based on the technology used if the resultant products are similar to, or indistinguishable from, foods that could have been produced using plants developed through earlier breeding methods.

GTA's submissions to the 2016 Technical Review of the Gene Technology Regulations; to Phases 1 and 2 of the 2017 Review of the National Gene Technology Regulatory Scheme; and to the 2017 draft amendments to the Gene Technology Regulations, have all highlighted the challenge for the global grain trade in terms of the lack of consistency in regulations regarding gene technology regulation globally. Through these reviews, GTA supported the principle that plants developed through NBTs should not be differentially regulated if they are similar to, or indistinguishable from, those that could have been produced through earlier breeding methods and where the risks to the environment or human health posed by products developed using such techniques are comparable to those of earlier (non-regulated by the OGTR) breeding methods. The final characteristics of foods derived from a new plant variety are the best indicator as to whether those foods will present a food safety risk and that needs to be recognised as part of the Food Standards Code.

GTA sees that this approach will assist to provide clarity and certainty to the industry which are key requirements to the facilitation of an efficient trade environment. Furthermore, considerable complexities for the trade could occur where it may not be possible to detect products which have been derived from the application and use of new breeding technologies.

GTA has not commented on the specific issues raised in the consultation paper, but is of the view that all regulation should be commensurate with risk. Regulators, and the regulatory system, should have the flexibility to apply regulation based on relative risks of products. As such, the general principle that food derived from organisms containing new pieces of DNA should be captured for premarket safety assessment and approval is not necessarily consistent with this approach. GTA is supportive that the future focus of assessing food safety risks should be on the final characteristics of the food derived from the new plant variety and not the breeding process used to produce that variety.

GTA would also encourage FSANZ to maintain a close involvement with international partners in the regulatory environment with a view to harmonization of approaches where appropriate.

GTA believes innovation is important in maintaining the competitiveness of the industry and that NBTs have a key role to play in promoting innovation. GTA cannot comment on some of the specific issues raised in the consultation paper, however, recognises that some of its members who have had direct dealings with the FSANZ legislation may do so in individual submissions.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Regards,

Pat O'Shannassy

CEO



Membership List as at 06 April 2018

Website /Phone Organisation Contact

Ordinary Member (Trading)

Level A1 (over 7 Million Tonnes)

Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited Mr Jason Craig cbh.com.au Glencore Agriculture Pty Ltd Mr Philip Hughes glencoreagriculture.com.au

Level A2 (5 - 7 Million Tonnes)

Graincorp Operations Ltd Mr Klaus Pamminger graincorp.com.au

Level A3 (3 - 5 Million Tonnes)

ADM Trading Australia Pty Ltd Mr Darryl Borlase adm.com Cargill Australia Limited Ms Penne Kehl cargill.com.au

Level A4 (1.5 - 3 Million Tonnes)

Bunge Agribusiness Australia Pty Ltd Mr Chris Aucote bunge.com/Agribusiness Cofco International Mr Bruce Li cofcoagri.com.au Mr David Johnson **Emerald Grain Pty Limited** emeraldgrain.com Nidera Australia Pty Ltd Mr David Lengren nidera.com Mr Tony Smith Plum Grove Pty Ltd plumgrove.com.au

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Level B1 (1.0 - 1.5 Million Tonnes)

Arrow Commodities Pty Ltd Mr Dominic Vanzella arrowcom.com.au Louis Dreyfus Company Australia Pty Ltd Mr Robert Green louisdreyfus.com.au

Level B2 (500,000 - 1 Million Tonnes)

Mr Hiro Oda Agrex Australia Pty Ltd agrexaustralia.com.au Australian Grain Export Pty Ltd Mr John Thiele 08 8832 2800 CHS Broadbent Pty Ltd Mr Justin Fay broadbentgrain.com.au Centre State Exports Pty Ltd Mr Jeff Voigt centrestateexports.com.au gwf.com.au George Weston Foods Limited Mr Mark O'Brien Mr Michael Reeves agriproducts.com.au Ridley Agriproducts Pty Ltd Riordan Grain Services Mr Bradley Hogan riordangrains.com.au Riverina (Australia) Pty Ltd Mr Jon Mulally riverina.com.au

Level B3 (250,000 - 500,000 Tonnes)

Agfarm Pty Ltd Mr Ron McCalman agfarm.com.au Agracom Pty Ltd Mr Joe Hallman agracom.com.au **AGRIGRAIN** Mr Jeremy Brown agrigrain.com Agrisk Management Pty Ltd Mr Brett Stevenson 02 9499 4199 Allied Pinnacle Pty Ltd Mr Josh Lawrence alliedmills.com.au Mr Lachlan Allen **Elders Grain** elders.com.au Lempriere Grain Pty Ltd Mr Jonathan Holdsworth lemprieregrain.com.au Quadra Commodities Pty Ltd Mr Robin Cassar quadra.com Robinson Grain Trading Co Pty Ltd Mr Gary Robinson robinsongrain.com.au Ms Jaimee Carrigan Special One Grain Accumulator specialonegrain.com.au United World Enterprises Pty Ltd Mr Jimmy Liu uwetypical.com Wilmar Gavilon Pty Ltd Mr Matt Albion 07 3713 8700

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Ordinary Member (Trading) (contd)

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AusiCan Commodities Mr Palwinder Singh ausican.com

Australian Choice Exports Pty Ltd Mr James Hunt australianchoiceexports.com.au

Australian Grain Growers Co-operative Limited Mr Bruce McDonald aggcoop.com.au
Australian Grain Storage Mr Matt Bailey sunrice.com.au

Australian Growers Direct Pty Ltd Mr Tom Lucas ausgrowersdirect.com.au Australian Mungbean Company Pty Ltd Mr Damien White australianmungbean.com.au Australian Storage Alliance Pty Ltd Mr Jon Bucknall 0447 652 716

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Baker Grain Mr Richard Baker bakergrain.com.au
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Boolah Grains Pty Ltd Mr Stuart Tighe 02 6754 0343
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Cameron Pastoral Company Pty Ltd Mr Ken Cameron 07 4671 4144
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Cleveland Agriculture Mr Chris Hurwood 02 6756 5004
Coorow Seeds Mr Brian Pover coorowseeds.com.au
COPRICE Ms Kirsty Cutter coprice.com.au

Cremer Australia Pty Ltd Mr Scott Haughton cremer.com.au
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Export Trading Group Australia Pty Ltd Mr Shayne Clark etgworld.com
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Fellows Nominees Mr Paul Fellows fellowsbulk.com.au
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Mr Dene Ladmore Quattro Ports quattroports.com.au Mr John Webster Quirindi Grain & Produce 02 6746 1911 Reid Stockfeeds Pty Ltd Mr Ian Reid reidstockfeeds.com.au

Mr Mark Fitzgerald rhodiumresources.com Rhodium Resources Australia Pty Ltd Rivalea (Australia) Pty Ltd - Animal Nutrition Mr Andrew Philpotts rivalea.com.au Riverina Oils & BioEnergy Pty Ltd Mr Lachlan Herbert riverinaoils.com

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0 Large

Medium

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Flexi Grain

Goldstar Commodities

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HarvestCheck Pty Ltd

Hay Plains Grain Storage Pty Ltd **IKON Commodities Pty Ltd Lachstock Consulting** MarketAg Pty Ltd

McMullen Consulting Pty Ltd

Mercari Pty Ltd Mirfak P/L

Murray Goulburn Trading Pty Ltd NZX Australia (ACF, PFA) OMIC Australia Pty Ltd

Perten Instruments Australia Pty Ltd Pinnacle Commodities Pty Ltd Planfarm Marketing Pty Ltd Plansafe Logistics Pty Ltd

Primal Foods Group Rise Agribusiness Pty Ltd **Rural Directions Pty Ltd** SGA Solutions Pty Ltd

TE Storage & Logistics Pty Ltd

Ten Tigers

International Affiliate

CCIC Australia Pty Ltd CIS - Commodity Inspection Services

Industry Association

Australia Export Grain Innovation Centre **Grain Growers Limited** Grain Industry Association of WA Grain Producers Australia Ltd **NSW Farmers Association** Victorian Farmers Federation

Merchant Association

Grain Industry Association of SA Grain Industry Association Of Victoria Grain NSW Inc Queensland Agricultural Merchants Inc.

Life Members

Mr Mervyn May Mr Christopher Kelly

Mr Geoff Honey (Posthumously awarded)

Ms Tracey Lehmann Mr Donald McTaggart Mr Robert Imrav Mr Malcolm Finlayson Mr Jarrod Tonkin Mr Geoff Webb Mr Chris Hood Mr Stephen Schumacher Mr Ron Harris Mr Simon Clancy

Mr Lachie Stevens Mr Mark Martin Mr Gerard McMullen Mr Scott Still Mr Mark Murphy

Mr Gerard Murphy Ms Hannah Janson Mr Yasuhide Okumura Mr Raul Ovelar

Mr Rod Buckle Mr Jerome Critch Mr Mark Sloan Mr Peter Longhurst Mr Ian Dalgliesh

Mr Chris Heinjus Mr David Hudson Mr Tom Hage Mr Chris Tonkin

Mr Isherwood Feng Mr Paul Schweitzer

Mr Richard Simonaitis D. McKeon/M. Southan Ms Larissa Taylor Mr Andrew Weidemann Mr Robert Hardie Mr Stephen Sheridan

Ms Rebecca Freeman Mr Colin Peace Ms Joanne Ware Mr John Francis

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Former GTA CEO

Retired