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14 September 2017

Gene Technology Review Department of Health MDP 1060 **GPO Box 9848** CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir,

Re: 2017 Review of the National Gene Technology Regulatory Scheme

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission to the Department of Health's Review of the National Gene Technology Regulatory Scheme. GTA supports the importance of a functioning regulatory system for gene technology and believes that the Office Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) and the supporting legislation is an effective and efficient system.

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.

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 end users 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.

Thus, this submission is made within this context and focuses on the options from a facilitation of trade perspective. As such, GTA's submission comments only on the options regarding regulation of new technologies and does not comment on the 'other considerations' raised in the discussion paper.

GTA gene technology policy

GTA supports research utilising plant breeding innovation to enhance the productive capacity of Australian grain producers.

GTA supports the commercial release and trade of grain from Genetically Modified (GM) and other innovative breeding techniques where this has been approved for commercial release by the Office of Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) and other relevant Federal, State and Territory regulators.

The GTA policy and aligned processes are designed to assist to deliver confidence to the industry, governments and the community that market access will be maintained or enhanced and that, if required, there is market choice for the domestic and global grain trade supply chains. GTA works with the industry to develop and maintain the "Delivering Market Choice with GM Crops" Framework that brings together the industry's practices and protocols that industry requires to be satisfied are in place to enable the seamless development, commercial release and trade of GM grain.

The National Gene Technology Regulatory Scheme

GTA supports the National Gene Technology Regulatory Scheme (Scheme) and believes that it has been effective in providing certainty and confidence to the industry and community in relation to GM crops. GTA also believes that Australia is seen as a model for other parts of the world in terms of its approach and regulatory outcomes. It is critical for the grains industry that there are effectively functioning regulatory systems in the countries with which it trades.

GTA supports the current scope of the Scheme i.e. application to human health and environment.

GTA does, however, believe that the Scheme could be improved through the adoption of a "Guiding Principle' which gave greater flexibility to the OGTR to be able to apply the regulation differently based on relative risks. The current scheme has a one size fits all approach, however, there are significant differences in the potential risks to human health and environment depending on the technology and where it is being applied. GTA believes that the objectives of the Scheme could be delivered more efficiently and cost effectively if OGTR had risk based flexibility in the application of the regulation.

GTA would also encourage OGTR to maintain a close involvement with international partners in the regulatory environment and to remain engaged with global initiatives.

A major challenge for the global grain trade is the lack of consistency in regulations regarding gene technology regulation globally. GTA supports the harmonisation of regulation and encourages Australia to remain involved in international forums on gene technology related issues including Cartagena biosafety protocol, low level presence, regulation of new technologies and other similar initiatives.

GTA works with the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) to try and achieve global harmonisation in the approach to regulating such activities. The main aim of IGTC efforts is to achieve international alignment, i.e. adoption of a similar approach across jurisdictions leading to legal certainty as this will provide for the lowest chance of trade disruptions. Alignment and regulatory coherence will assist governments to avoid unnecessarily eroding the value of the innovation and/or driving up costs and complexity in the global food system.

GTA provided a submission to the recent OGTR discussion paper on options for regulating new technologies and supported Option 4 as the preferred option for the industry i.e. to exclude certain new technologies from regulation based on the outcomes they produce. GTA supports the principle that plants developed through New Breeding Technologies (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.

GTA believes that this approach will provide clarity and certainty to the industry which are key requirements to the facilitation of an efficient trade environment. Furthermore, GTA believes that 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 believes that 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 background paper, nor operational improvements that could be made. However, recognises that some of its members who have had direct dealings with the OGTR/legislation may do so in individual submissions.

Conclusion

GTA believes that Australia has a world class regulatory system for gene technology, however, also sees that there are opportunities to improve the efficiency and reduce costs through providing increased risk based flexibility to the Regulator in how the Scheme is applied.

GTA recognises the risks of inconsistencies between regulatory frameworks in global markets and that this is a major issue impacting the global grain trade today. GTA encourages the Australian Government to stay engaged and continue to seek harmonisation in regulation of gene technologies.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Regards

Pat O'Shannassy CEO



GRAIN TRADE AUSTRALIA

| Membership List as at 31 August 2017 | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Organisation | Contact | Website /Phone |
| 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 |
| | | 2 |
| Level A2 (5 - 7 Million Tonnes) | | |
| Graincorp Operations Ltd | Mr Klaus Pamminger | graincorp.com.au |
| | | 1 |
| 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 |
| Bunge Agribusiness Australia Pty Ltd | Mr Chris Aucote | bunge.com/Agribusiness |
| | | 3 |
| Level A4 (1.5 - 3 Million Tonnes) | | |
| Cofco International | Mr Bruce Li | cofcoagri.com.au |
| Emerald Grain Pty Limited | Mr David Johnson | emeraldgrain.com |
| Plum Grove Pty Ltd | Mr Tony Smith | plumgrove.com.au |
| | | 3 |
| Level B1 (1.0 - 1.5 Million Tonnes) | | |
| Louis Dreyfus Company Australia Pty Ltd | Mr Robert Green | louisdreyfus.com.au |
| Arrow Commodities Pty Ltd | Mr Dominic Vanzella | arrowcom.com.au |
| | | 2 |
| Level B2 (500,000 - 1 Million Tonnes) | | . 1 |
| Agrex Australia Pty Ltd | Mr Hiro Oda | agrexaustralia.com.au |

Agrex Australia Pty Ltd Allied Pinnacle Pty Ltd Australian Grain Export Pty Ltd Broadbent CHS Pty Ltd Centre State Exports Pty Ltd George Weston Foods Limited Ridley Agriproducts Pty Ltd Riordan Grain Services Riverina (Australia) Pty Ltd

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

Agfarm Pty Ltd Agracom Pty Ltd AGRIGRAIN Agrisk Management Pty Ltd Chinatex Australia Pty Ltd Elders Grain Grain Link (NSW) Pty Ltd K M & W M Kelly & Sons Lempriere Grain Pty Ltd Quadra Commodities Pty Ltd Robinson Grain Trading Co Pty Ltd Special One Grain Accumulator United World Enterprises Pty Ltd Wilmar Gavilon Pty Ltd Mr Josh Lawrence Mr John Thiele Mr Justin Fay Mr Jeff Voigt Mr Mark O'Brien Mr Michael Reeves Mr Bradley Hogan Mr Jon Mulally

Mr Ron McCalman Mr Joe Hallman Mr Jeremy Brown Mr Brett Stevenson Mr Jiling Lai Mr Lachlan Allen Mr Paul Pearsall Mr Matt Kelly Mr Jonathan Holdsworth Mr Richard Black Mr Gary Robinson Ms Jaimee Carrigan Mr Jimmy Liu Mr Matt Albion agrexaustralia.com.au alliedmills.com.au 08 8832 2800 broadbentgrain.com.au centrestateexports.com.au gwf.com.au agriproducts.com.au riordangrains.com.au riverina.com.au

> agfarm.com.au agracom.com.au agrigrain.com 02 9499 4199 02 9957 2688 elders.com.au 02 6962 9500 kellygrains.com.au lemprieregrain.com.au quadra.com robinsongrain.com.au specialonegrain.com.au uwetypical.com 07 3713 8700

Ordinary Member (Trading) (contd)

Level C (under 250,000 Tonnes) A & B Grains Pty Ltd A T Waterfield & Son Pty Ltd A W Vater and Co Adams Australia Pty Ltd Agmark Commodities Agri Om Australia Pty Ltd Agri-Oz Exports Pty Ltd Agriex Australia Pty Ltd Agrifoods Australia Agromin Australia Pty Limited AGT Foods Australia AMPS Agribusiness Group Associated Grain Auscott Ltd AusiCan Commodities Australian Choice Exports Pty Ltd Australian Grain Growers Co-operative Limited Australian Grain Storage Australian Growers Direct Pty Ltd Australian Mungbean Company Pty Ltd **Baker Grain** Berriwillock Grain Storage Co-Operative Ltd BFB Ptv Ltd **Blairs Produce Company** Blue Ribbon Seed and Pulse Exporters **Boort Grain Co-Operative** Broun and Co Grain Pty Ltd Bungulla Farming Pty Ltd C & S Trading Pty Ltd C K Tremlett Pty Ltd **Carpendale Commodities** Cameron Pastoral Company Pty Ltd Castlegate James Australasia Pty Ltd **Cleveland Agriculture** Coorow Seeds COPRICE Cremer Australia Pty Ltd DA Hall and Co Dalby Bio-Refining Limited Dalgrains (Qld) Pty Ltd Darwalla Milling Co Pty Ltd Deacon Seeds Company Deckert Group Ptv Ltd Defiance Maize Products Pty Ltd Demeter Cormack Pty Ltd Donnellons Bulk Haulage Pty Ltd ED & F Man Grains Australia East Coast Stockfeed Ptv Ltd Export Trading Group Australia Pty Ltd Feed Central Pty Ltd **Fellows Nominees** FertInvest Pty Ltd **Findlays Barellan** Five Star Stock Feeds

Mr Chris Wolski Mr Brad Waterfield Mr Kim Vater Mr Ian Mack Mr Richard Alcorn Mr Kishore Bulchandani Mr Francois Darcas Mr Joseph Khnessier Mr Rob Anderson Mr Rajni Patel Mr Peter Wilson Mr Simon McDougall Mr Todd Jorgensen Mr Peter Webb Mr Palwinder Singh Mr James Hunt Mr Bruce McDonald Mr Matt Bailey Mr Tom Lucas Mr Damien White Mr Richard Baker Mr Tony Bellinger Mr Terry Brabin Mr Sean Blair Mr Stephen Donnelly Mr Tony Bellinger Mr Wal Broun Mr Brad Jones Mr Craig Scholz Mr Andrew Tremlett Mr Andrew Kluck Mr Ross Stephens Mr Dominic Hogan Mr Chris Hurwood Mr Brian Pover Ms Kirsty Cutter Mr Scott Haughton Mr Bruce Holden Mr Tobin Cherry Mr Gary Heidenreich Mr Terry Deacon Mr Chris Deckert Mr Rodney Walker Mr David Oates Mr Bill Donnellon Mr Jon Bucknall Mr Stuart Dolden Mr Shayne Clark Mr Tim Ford Mr Paul Fellows Mr Michael Jones Mr Neil Findlay

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Mr. Tim Huggins

Level C (under 250,000 Tonnes) cont.

Fletcher International Exports Pty Ltd FREE Eyre Grain Pty Ltd **Golden Harvest Grain Exports** Grain Direct Australia Grain Link WA Pty Ltd Grainforce Pty Ltd Grainpro Pty Limited GrainTrend Pty Ltd **Greentree Farming** GV Grain & Fodder Hanlon Enterprises Grain Harberger's Farm Supplies (Trading) Pty Ltd Hassad Australia Operations Company Pty Ltd Iloura Resources Pty Ltd Independent Grain Handlers Pty Ltd Irwin Stockfeeds Itochu Australia Ltd J K International Pty Ltd J W Koek & Company James Stock Feed and Fertilizer Pty Ltd Jerilderie Grain Storage & Handling KB Agri Services Pty Ltd Kangaroo Island Pure Grain Pty Ltd Kennett Rural Services Pty Ltd Lachlan Commodities Pty Ltd Laharum Bulk Handling Co Lake Grain Pty Ltd Lane Grain Pty Ltd Laragon Almond Processors Pty Ltd Laucke Flour Mills P/L Lawson Grains Pty Ltd LDC Enterprises Australia Pty Ltd LPC Trading Pty Ltd Malteurop Australia Pty Ltd Matthews Transport and Grain Traders Max Grains Pty Ltd MC Croker Pty Limited McNaughts Grain & Fertilizer Pty Ltd Melaluka Trading Pty Ltd Mellco Pty Ltd Moulamein Grain Co-Operative Ltd Moxey Farms Pty Limited MSM Milling Pty Ltd Murrumbidgee Grains Pty Ltd Namoi Cotton Co-Operative Nandaly Grain Co-Operative Ltd Network Grains Pty Ltd Newcastle Agri Terminal Pty Ltd Northern Riverina Grains Pty Ltd **OOMA Enterprises NSW Pty Limited** Origin Grain Pty Ltd PB Seeds Pty Ltd PeaCo Pearson's Grain Pty Ltd Peters Commodities Pty Ltd Phoenix Global Australia Pty Ltd

Mr Kurt Wilkinson Mr Mark Rodda Mr Chandru Hiremath Mr Lyndon Benecke Mr Andrew Goyder Mr Derek Larnach Ms Angela Bonfante Mr Sanjiv Dubey Mr David Brown Ms Joanne Harry Mr Peter Gerhardy Mr Reece Harberger Ms Terrie Morgan Mr Hans Hol Mr Brad Bryant Mr Bryan Irwin Mr Justin Swan Mr Sandeep Mohan Mr Brian Algate Mr Adrian Moule Mr David Barlow Mr Karl Bliss Ms Emma Tonkin Mr Andrew Kennett Mr Tony Cogswell Mr Donald Carter Mr Derek Davis Mr Garry Lane Mr Mark Webber Mr Roger Laubsch Mr Angus Blair Mr Richard Porter Mr Simon Langfield Mr Jack King Mr Neville Matthews Mr Jack Fahy Mr Greg Carroll Mr Daniel McNaught Mr Simon Pritchard Mr Steve Mellington Mr Tony Bellinger Mr Peter Philipzen Mr Peter MacSmith Mr Peter Hassall Mr Shane McGregor Mr Tony Bellinger Mr Craig Dennis Mr Jock Carter Mr Tony Bellinger Mr Malcolm Berry Mr Peter Brick Mr Peter Blair Mr Shane Wall Mr Darren Pearson Mr Michael Oxley Mr Jogesh Virk

Level C (under 250,000 Tonnes) cont.

Preston Grain Pulse Association of the South East (PASE) Inc Quattro Ports Quirindi Grain & Produce Reid Stockfeeds Pty Ltd Rhodium Resources Australia Pty Ltd Rivalea (Australia) Pty Ltd - Animal Nutrition Riverina Oils & BioEnergy Pty Ltd **Roty Grain Store** Ruddenklau Grain Pty Ltd Rural Logic (Aust) Pty Ltd SANWA Pty Ltd Seedhouse Tasmania Shannon Bros Bulk Haulage Silo Bag Grain (NSW QLD) Pty Ltd Societa Cofica Pty Ltd Southern Ark Storage Pty Ltd Southern Cotton Trading Pty Ltd Southern Cross Agricultural Exports P/L Southern Grain Storage Pty Ltd Southern Stockfeeds (Operations) Pty Ltd Spagricon Australia Pty Limited Standard Commodities Australia Pty Ltd Sumitomo Australia Pty Ltd Summer Hill Grains SunPork Farms Feed Mills Tasmanian Agricultural Producers Pty Ltd **TSS** Grain Thallon Grains Pty Ltd Twynam Pastoral Company Unigrain Pty Ltd Unique Grain Management Pty Ltd W B Hunter Pty Ltd Ward McKenzie Pty Ltd WHG Oceania Pty Ltd Whyalla Beef Pty Ltd Wilken Grain Wimpak Pty Ltd WW Agri Pty Ltd XLD Grain Pty Ltd Yenda Prods Grain Pty Ltd

Transport Operator

Gehrke Grains and Transport Pty Ltd Hamilton Contracting (NSW) Pty Ltd Wakefield Grain Export Services Mr John Orr Mr Andrew Kell Ms Leanne Burr Mr Dene Ladmore Mr John Webster Mr Ian Reid Mr Mark Fitzgerald Mr Andrew Philpotts Mr Lachlan Herbert Mr Brian Newman Mr Tim Ruddenklau Mr Michael Wood Mr Charles Emerson Mr Matthew Crane Mr Clayton Shannon Ms Lesley Kilby Mr Dia Ram Sharma Mr Simon Pritchard Mr Chris Veness Ms Alicia Dunbar Mr Campbell Brumby Mr David Jemmet Mr Jiger Kotecha Ms Elizabeth Bozinoska Mr Akira Yabuuchi Mr Barney Hughes Mr Bjorn Ludvigsen Mr David Skipper Mr Trevor Macleod Mr Andrew Earle Ms Lesley Heidtman Mr Ervin Leong Mr Mark Thiele Mr Stewart Coombes Mr Geoff Hammon Gesheng Shen Mr Gino De Stefani Mr Richard Wilken Ms Jo Cameron Mr Steve Sloss Mr Lachie Stevens Mr Luke Mancini

Mr Julian Gehrke Ms Jodie Hamilton Mr John Gray

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07 5465 6695 hamiltoncontracting.com.au wakefields.com.au

Broker

Large

Medium

Fox Commodities Grain Brokers Australia Horizon Grain Brokers Pty Ltd Igrain.com.au Pty Ltd INTL FCStone Pty Ltd McDonald Pelz Australia Perkins Commodity Brokers Teague Australia Pty Ltd Southern Aurora Markets

Sole Operator

A C Grain ACCB Australia AgLink - CMS Allied Grain Pty Ltd Cereal Milling Services Pty Ltd Cogeser (Australia) Pty Ltd Farm Tender Link Brokering Lotema Pty Ltd Mallon Commodity Brokering Quest Commodities Pty Ltd Shearwater International Pty Ltd Wimmera Mallee Grain Services Woodside Commodities Pty Ltd

Corporate

Large ASX Limited Australia And New Zealand Banking Group Australian Grain Technologies Pty Ltd Commonwealth Bank of Australia Symbio Laboratories

Medium

Agrifood Technology Pty Ltd AMSPEC Australian Superintendence Company Commodity Inspection Services (Australia) Pty Ltd Foss Pacific Pty Ltd Holding Redlich Holman Fenwick Willan Intertek Merricks Capital Pty Limited NZX Australia (ACF, PFA) SBA Law SGS Australia Pty Ltd Mr Paul Cochrane Mr Jeff Winspear Mr Ash Munro Mr Tom Roberts Mr Brett Cooper Mr Peter Geary Mr Craig Perkins Mr Tim Teague Mr Pat Cogswell

Mr Adam Clarke Mr Andy Cunliffe Mr Justen Schofield Mr Angus Wettenhall Mr Michael Moss Mr Robert Luetolf Mr Matt Henke Mr Dion Costigan Mr Todd Lees Mr Ian Mallon Ms Jayne Barker Mr Don Cattanach Mr Rodney Edgerton Mr Hamish Steele-Park

Mr Kristen Hopkins Mr Ian Hanrahan Mr Tristan Coram Mr Tom Barraket Ms Elizabeth Owens

Ms Doreen Fernandez Mr Lee Shilvock Mr Andrew Parry Mr Mathew Conoulty Mr Simon Kirkman Mr Geoff Farnsworth Mr Stephen Thompson Mr Ben Jones Mr Adam Davis Mr Ron Storey Mr Jeremy Rosenthal Mr Scot Paterson foxcommodities.com.au grainbrokers.com.au horizongb.com.au igrain.com.au intlfcstone.com mcdonaldpelz.com 03 9645 6846 teague.com.au samarkets.com.au

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asx.com.au/grainfutures anz.com.au agtbreeding.com.au commbank.com.au symbiolabs.com.au 5

03 9742 0589 amspecgroup.com 07 3391 8640 commodityinspection.com.au holdingredlich.com hfw.com intertek.com merrickscapital.com nzx.com sbalaw.com au.sgs.com

Corporate (cont.)

Advance Trading Australasia Ag Scientia Pty Ltd AvantAgri Australia Pty Ltd **Clear Grain Exchange** CloudBreak Grain Marketing Pty Ltd Basis Commodities Pty Ltd Delta Agribusiness Pty Ltd Direct Commodities Pty Ltd EP Integrated Commodities Pty Ltd Farmanco Marketing Pty Ltd FarMarCo Australia Pty Ltd **Finesse Solutions Pty Limited** Flexi Grain Goldstar Commodities Grainx HarvestCheck Pty Ltd Hay Plains Grain Storage Pty Ltd IKON Commodities Pty Ltd MarketAg Pty Ltd McMullen Consulting Pty Ltd Mirfak P/L Murray Goulburn Trading Pty Ltd OMIC Australia Pty Ltd Perten Instruments Australia Pty Ltd Pinnacle Commodities Pty Ltd Planfarm Marketing 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

CIS - Commodity Inspection Services CCIC Australia Pty Ltd

Industry Association

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. Mr Andrew Woodhouse Mr Lloyd George Mr Peter Woods Mr Nathan Cattle Mr Ed Scamps Mr Chris Whitwell Mr Michael Parry Mr Hamish Robertson Ms Tracey Lehmann Mr Donald McTaggart Mr Robert Imray Mr Malcolm Finlayson Mr Jarrod Tonkin Mr Geoff Webb Mr Chris Hood Mr Stephen Schumacher Mr Ron Harris Mr Simon Clancy Mr Mark Martin Mr Gerard McMullen Mr Mark Murphy Mr Gerard Murphy Mr Yasuhide Okumura Mr Raul Ovelar Mr Rod Buckle Mr Jerome Critch Mr Peter Longhurst Mr Ian Dalgliesh Mr Chris Heinjus Mr David Hudson Mr Tom Hage Mr Chris Tonkin

Mr Paul Schweitzer Mr Isherwood Feng

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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graingrowers.com.au giwa.org.au grainproducers.com.au 02 8251 1827 03 9207 5555 5

> 0414 844 425 giav.com.au grainnsw.com.au qam.org.au 4

Small

Life Members

Mr Mervyn May Mr Christopher Kelly Mr Geoff Honey (*Posthumously awarded*) Retired K M & W M Kelly & Sons Former GTA CEO Awarded 1998 Awarded July 2015 Awarded July 2016