



Submitted by: Agrifood Awareness Australia Ltd  
Address: PO Box E10  
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Western Australian Gene Technology Act 2006  
Department of Agriculture and Food  
Locked Bag 4  
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

7th December 2011

To whom it may concern

**Re: Submission to the 2011 Review of the Western Australian Gene Technology ACT 2006**

Agrifood Awareness Australia Limited (AFAA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the 2011 Review of the Western Australian Gene Technology Act 2006.

Agrifood Awareness Australia Limited is an industry initiative, established to increase public awareness of, and encourage informed debate and decision-making about, gene technology. The organisation is supported by CropLife Australia, the Grains Research and Development Corporation and the National Farmers' Federation and has project a partnership with Meat and Livestock Australia.

Australia's gene technology regulatory system is one of the most rigorous, transparent, science-based systems in the world. Australia's cotton and canola industries have proven that they can successfully work within this regulatory framework. Cotton and canola growers Australia wide and particularly canola growers in Western Australia are now seeing substantial benefits through the use of genetically modified (GM) varieties in their farming systems.

Agrifood Awareness Australia Limited commends the report of the federal review – “The Statutory Review of the *Gene Technology Act 2000* and The Gene Technology Agreement” – in which the West Australian Government was involved. We strongly encourage Western Australia and other member governments of the Gene Technology Ministerial Council to move quickly to deliver a truly national scheme for the regulation of gene technology. We congratulate the West Australian Government on its approach to gene technology regulation and the fact that it has not continued a non-science based moratorium, under the current Government. This is in contrast to some other states and territories. We encourage the West Australian Government to take a strong leadership position in this area, to work with other governments to implement a national coexistence framework which would serve to deliver a path to market for other approved GM products – a path which is currently unclear in most states including Western Australia.

The success of Australian agriculture has been based on innovation and the rapid adoption of research and development outcomes. To continue to successfully compete in a global environment, Australian agriculture needs access to the outcomes of gene technology research. Moratoria are currently creating regulatory and investment uncertainty, over-riding sound science-based decision making, and denying Australian farmers the opportunity to access approved GM crops. All of Australia’s key commodity sectors invest in this technology. We trust that the West Australian Government will work with other governments to adopt a national framework which allows farmers to access the outcomes of these investments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claude Gauchat', with a stylized, cursive script.

Claude Gauchat

Chairman

Agrifood Awareness Australia Ltd