

NSW CANEGROWERS COUNCIL INC

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SUNSHINE SUGAR

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31st March 2016

Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam

SUBMISSION ON PRIMARY INDUSTRIES LEVIES AND CHARGES COLLECTION AMENDMENT BILL 2016

Sunshine Sugar (as the miller) and all sugar cane growers in New South Wales pay a compulsory levy to Sugar Research Australia (SRA). However not all growers are members of SRA with less than 30% of NSW growers having applied for and been granted membership.

SRA is currently limited to dealing with members which means that it is not able to effectively share information directly with 70% of grower levy payers in NSW. This, in our view, significantly impedes their capacity to effectively engage with their levy payers and to align research and investment to industry priorities. We believe that the amendments as proposed would allow SRA to better achieve its overall objectives resulting in improved returns to our growers and contribute to a more profitable, competitive and sustainable sugar cane industry in NSW.

The sugar industry in New South Wales is therefore in favour of the proposed amendments.

Yours sincerely

Chris Connors
Chief Executive Officer
Sunshine Sugar

Ross Farlow
Chairman
NSWCGA