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The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

**WORK IN PROGRESS:  
PROCEED WITH CAUTION**

**Primary Producer Access to  
Gene Technology**

House of Representatives

Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Regional Services

June 2000  
Canberra

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## **Membership of the Committee**

<b>Chair</b>	Fran Bailey, MP	
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Hon Dick Adams, MP	
<b>Members</b>	Mr Peter Andren, MP	Hon Leo McLeay, MP
	Mr Bob Horne, MP	Mr Gary Nairn, MP
	Hon Bob Katter, MP	Mr Patrick Secker, MP
	Mr Tony Lawler, MP (from 30/8/99)	Mr Sid Sidebottom, MP
	Mr Ian Macfarlane, MP	Mr Cameron Thompson, MP
<b>Supplementary members</b>	Mr Alan Griffin, MP (from 30/6/99)	Dr Mal Washer, MP (from 30/6/99)

Mr Griffin and Dr Washer were appointed to the committee for the purposes of the inquiry into primary producer access to gene technology.

## **Committee Secretariat**

<b>Secretary</b>	Mr Ian Dundas
<b>Inquiry Secretary</b>	Dr Sarah Hnatiuk
<b>Research Officers</b>	Ms Katherine Harrington Ms Emily Whitten
<b>Administrative Officers</b>	Ms Jeannie Brooks Ms Marlene Lyons



## **Terms of reference**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Regional Services will inquire into and report on the following areas, with particular emphasis on the capacity of small and medium sized enterprises to access the benefits of gene technology:

- the future value and importance of genetically modified varieties;
- the ability for producers to compete using traditionally available varieties;
- the commercialisation and marketing of agricultural and livestock production varieties;
- the cost to producers of new varieties;
- other impediments to the utilisation of new varieties by small producers;
- assistance to small producers to develop new varieties and the protection of the rights of independent breeders, in relation to genetically modified organisms;
- the appropriateness of current variety protection rights, administrative arrangements and legislation, in relation to genetically modified organisms; and
- opportunities to educate the community of the benefits of gene technology.

Referred by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on 30 March 1999.





## List of abbreviations

AAA	Agrifood Alliance Australia
ABA	Australian Biotechnology Association
ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABB	Australian Barley Board
AFFA	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia
AFGC	Australian Food and Grocery Council
AGN	Australian GeneEthics Network
ANZFA	Australia New Zealand Food Authority
ANZFSC	Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council
AQIS	Australian Quarantine Inspection Service
BA	Biotechnology Australia
BMA	British Medical Association
Bt	Plant variety with a gene inserted from a bacterium ( <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> ) that, by producing a toxin, makes the variety resistant to certain insect pests.
CAMBIA	Center for the Application of Molecular Biology to International Agriculture

CLIMA	Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture
COMET	Commercialising Emerging Technologies
CRC	cooperative research centre
CRCA	Cooperative Research Centres Association
CSD	Cotton Seed Distributors Ltd
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DHAC	Department of Health and Aged Care
DNA	deoxyribose nucleic acid
EA	Environment Australia
EPRs	end point royalties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCA	Grains Council of Australia
GEO	genetically engineered organism
GM	genetically modified
GMAC	Genetic Manipulation Advisory Committee
GMO	genetically modified organism
GRDC	Grains Research and Development Corporation
GTCCG	Gene Technology Community Consultative Group
GTEC	Gene Technology Ethics Committee
GTTAC	Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee
GTR	Gene Technology Regulator
HSCA	Heritage Seed Curators Australia
IIF	Innovation Investment Fund
Ingard®	Monsanto's Australian Bt cotton variety

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IOGTR	Interim Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
IP	intellectual property
IPCRC	Intellectual Property and Competition Review Committee
NFF	National Farmers' Federation
NRA	National Registration Authority
NSW	New South Wales
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFA	Organic Federation of Australia
OGTR	Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
PBR Act	Plant Breeders' Rights Act
PBRs	plant breeders' rights
PDF	Pooled Development Fund
RDC	research and development corporation
R&D	research and development
SCARM	Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management
TRIPS	Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization



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