



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

23 May 2018

Dr Jane Thomson

Inquiry into the Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Bill 2018

Thank you for your invitation to provide a submission to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee regarding the proposed changes to the *Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act 1991*.

The issue of appropriate access to levy payer details is critical to Sugar Research Australia Limited (SRA). It is an issue that we have raised in our previous submissions to both the 'Inquiry into the *Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Bill 2016*' (refer Sub2_SRA_050416) and the 'Inquiry into industry structures and systems governing the imposition and disbursement of marketing and research and development (R&D) levies in the agricultural sector' (refer Sub15_SRA).

SRA fully supports the legislative changes proposed in the Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Bill 2018.

SRA has advised and consulted with the industry representative bodies on the current Bill and inquiry. The Australian Sugar Industry Alliance (represented by CANEGROWERS Australia and the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC)) continues to support SRA in the establishment of a sugar levy payer register and have previously indicated their support to the Committee in their submission to the 2016 inquiry (refer Sub13_ASIA_080416). The Australian Cane Farmers Association has also provided SRA with their continued support for a sugar levy payer register.

We are currently undertaking consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, our industry representative bodies and levy collection agents (sugar milling companies) in preparation for our application to the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources to establish a sugar levy payer register. ASMC has agreed to work with the milling companies to ensure they have a full understanding of what will be required of them as collection agents when the sugar levy payer register is established.

SRA looks forward to the Committee's Report and would be pleased to provide additional information if required.

Yours sincerely

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