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Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and
Transport References Committee
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Dr Jane Thomson

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

Thank you for providing an opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry.

The Australian Cane Farmers Association (ACFA) is supportive of the proposed legislative changes and the establishment of a sugar levy payer register.

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) is the industry-owned research, development and extension (RD&E) provider for the Australian sugarcane industry. SRA's role is to provide its levy payers, cane farmers and millers, with RD&E that both meets their needs and delivers valuable impacts for the industry.

In order to identify and respond appropriately to their levy payers' research needs and priorities, SRA must be able to communicate and consult directly with all of their levy payers. Access to levy payer contact details is therefore a necessity for SRA to operate effectively and deliver on its role.

Additionally, access to information on the size of levy paid by individual levy payers, in terms of volume (tonnage) and quantum of levy (dollars), will assist SRA to tailor, where appropriate, its communications and RD&A activities to suit small, medium and large cane farmers.

However, it is important that the privacy of individuals and their businesses must be maintained. The ACFA does not support the provision of a farmer's personal or business information to parties, other than SRA, without the permission of the farmer.

The Australian Cane Farmers Association looks forward to hearing the outcomes of this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Ryan
General Manager