

Dear Senators,

We note the need for trust in a market system that labels produce as organic and generally support the proposed bill.

We wish to highlight a use case of the Australian National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce which may not be adequately addressed by the bill.

We are organic market garden growers and use a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) to guarantee produce as organically grown per the above National Standard.

Participatory Guarantee Systems are a recognised certification mechanism by IFOAM, The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements ( <https://www.ifoam.bio> ).

These schemes allow smaller growers to sell produce to local markets and restaurants as organic.

They are a low cost, locally based method of providing quality assurance and building trust in the market between producers and consumers.

Our PGS annually audits approximately 11 growers in the Southern Downs LGA of Queensland. Growers are required to record and submit an input sheet. We have, on occasion, taken land out of production, where the standard has not been met ( growers misinformed re inputs ).

- \* Produce is grown per the Australian National Standard
- \* Certification is granted on merit, not purchased
- \* Farmers learn from each other, increasing overall productivity and quality

We ask that the legislation be constructed so as not to penalise us for describing our produce as organically grown, when it is exactly that.

Yours sincerely,  
Peter Barrs and Judith Kerr