

23 November 2017



Agricultural
Biotechnology
Council of
Australia

ABN 49 103 817 296

Mr Gerry Mcinally
Committee Secretary
Select Committee into the Political Influence of Donations
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: politicaldonations.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Mcinally,

RE: SELECT COMMITTEE INTO THE POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF DONATIONS

The Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia (ABCA) is the not-for-profit national organisation for the Australian agricultural biotechnology sector. Working broadly across the agriculture sector, ABCA is committed to providing quality, factual, science-based information about gene technology in agriculture.

In recent testimony to the Select Committee on Thursday 2 November 2017 representatives of MADGE and Gene Ethics made misleading claims about ABCA. I write to correct the public record.

ABCA aims to provide the Australian public, particularly farmers, with credible, balanced, science-based information on biotechnology to enable them to make informed decisions about the application, uses and future of gene technology in Australia. ABCA has a specific policy of not engaging in political advocacy, nor to make any political donations.

As the world’s farming sector seeks to double production to meet the food and nutritional requirements of the growing global population, ABCA’s mission is guided by this global food security challenge and the role that Australian agriculture can play in recognising that farmers will need access to the full range of modern innovative tools to maximise the output of our existing farming land while ensuring that the natural environment is protected, conserved and enhanced.

ABCA’s 16 members are national peak agricultural industry associations that represent the entire agricultural value chain and are committed to increasing public awareness of, and encouraging informed debate about, biotechnology and specifically, gene technology, and its applications in agriculture.

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Claims made by Gene Ethics and MADGE against ABCA in their testimony to the Committee are entirely baseless.

Further information about ABCA is available at www.abca.com.au. Please contact me should you require any further information in relation to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Matthews AO
Chair, Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia