



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation
Committee report:

Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection
Amendment Bill 2016 [Provisions]

October 2016

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Senate pass the bill.

The Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Bill 2016 was passed by both Houses of Parliament on 12 September 2016 and received Royal Assent on 16 September 2016.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources continue to consult with Research and Development Corporations and representatives of the agricultural industry as it implements the regulatory and administrative framework associated with the measures contained in the bill.

The Australian Government agrees with this recommendation.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has commenced the consultation process and in August 2016 engaged Callida Consulting to develop a set of business requirements that will inform the design of levy payer registers. Callida Consulting has conducted targeted stakeholder workshops across Australia to understand how people interact with the levy system, and how levy payer information might be consolidated without adding unnecessary regulatory burden.

The department is also developing guidance material that will set out expectations regarding appropriate use of the data, including its disclosure by a research and development corporation to a third party, where approved by the department's secretary.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources table a response to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee's report tabled in June 2015: *Inquiry into the industry structures and systems governing the imposition and disbursement of marketing and research and development levies in the agriculture sector*.

The Australian Government response was tabled on 5 May 2016.