

5 July 1999

The Honourable Fran Bailey; MP
Chair
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Regional Services
Parliament House
CANBERRA. ACT, 2600.

Dear Ms Bailey,

INQUIRY INTO PRIMARY PRODUCER ACCESS TO GENE TECHNOLOGY

The Grains Council of Australia's submission to the Inquiry into Primary Producer access to gene technology is attached for the consideration of the Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Regional Services.

The Australian grains industry, with an average gross value of production (GVP) of \$7 billion per annum (representing around one-quarter of total Australian farm GVP) and exports of over \$5 billion per annum, is an important contributor to the national and regional economies. It is an efficient and internationally competitive industry. As such it is important that Australian grain growers have access to biotechnologies, including gene transfer technologies, so that its competitiveness with overseas exporters can be maintained.

To capture the benefits that biotechnologies promise Australia grain growers a number of issues need to be addressed and these are raised in the GCA's submission.

If additional information is required by the Committee, the GCA would be pleased to provide such additional information.

Yours Sincerely,

NEIL FISHER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR