



# SOCIETY FOR ENGINEERING IN AGRICULTURE

c/o Department of Primary Industries  
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Dr Anna Dacre  
Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Science and Innovation  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. ....33.....

Monday, 2 May 2005

Dear Anna,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Australian technological innovations.

While agricultural engineering has contributed greatly to the advancement of Australian farming through many innovative ideas and devices I am unable to detail specific examples at this time.

Casual observation and personal reflection suggest that passion is an important ingredient to the success of any new development. An ability to persevere in the face of obstacles is essential if an idea is to be realised.

Realisation of new concepts is expensive. As government and rural industry research and development organisations continued to scale back their funding of machinery research it fell to farmers and engineers to shoulder the cost of developing machinery for local needs.

On the world scale, Australia is only a small market for farm equipment and in most cases machines developed for other locations produce good to excellent results. Until different conditions, such as soil characteristics or production systems, are encountered.

With Australia's soils being older than most others in the world it requires different handling techniques. This is reflected in the range of soil engaging tools developed in Australia in response to the sometimes difficult working conditions.

While Australians continue to farm there will always be innovative solutions generated in response to the difficulties encountered. With the right support these ideas could be nurtured to success. Not only would our farmers continue to export high quality food they could also export ideas to improve the world.

Richard Williams  
National Chairperson  
Society for Engineering in Agriculture