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February 11th, 2014

*The Hon Warren Entsch MP
Chair – Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600*

Submission to Inquiry – The Development of Northern Australia

Dear Mr Entsch

It is with great pleasure that I submit this report for consideration by the JSCNA and wish you and the committee all the best on this fantastic initiative.

The Australian Guar Company is very excited about the focus that northern Australia is receiving through this process and the development of a White Paper, as we see this region as where the Guar Industry for Australia can flourish and so highlight the benefits and support it provides other agricultural and resource sectors.

With regards to the stated TOR's this submission relates to addressing the impediments to growth, specifically to agricultural production of grains, commodities and fibres in northern Australia.

This region is clearly dominated by pastoral activities, and thus land tenure and diversity of activity will need investigation, as will local RD&E activities to ensure agricultural activities are suited, sustainable, supportive and profitable in northern Australia.

1/. Land Tenure Legislation: There is currently significant differences and difficulties in each of the States and Territory with regards to being able to diversify pastoral activities to allow strategic agricultural activities like grain production. This makes risk management for existing land holders, or confidence for future investors very difficult. This needs to be addressed to assist with removing impediments to development.

2/. Research & Development: For any enterprise to be successful in this region, relevant and focussed on the ground RD&E will be required. I note with much enthusiasm RIRDC developing the framework for the Agnorth CRC. This is a fantastic outcome from this process already, and I really look forward to being involved in Research and Development with the CRC, focussed on the development of sustainable, profitable and appropriate cropping systems that supports and develops regional market development and existing activities.

Appendices:

For interest, I have included two Appendices which relates to how growing Guar Bean in northern Australia has a very valuable link to agricultural development in northern Australia.

A/. – Powerpoint Presentation – AGC in Northern Australia

B/. – Summary Benefits AgNorth CRC

All the very best Warren, and I look forward to catching up soon to discuss activities further.

Warmest Regards,

Anthony (Tony) Matchett

National Operations Manager
(Managing Director / Secretary)
Australian Guar Company P/L