

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000433

OUTCOME: 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

Topic: Office of Gene Technology Regulator

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Rice, Janet

Question:

On what basis did you arrive at the decision that techniques such as Seed Production Technology (SPT), reverse breeding (RB), accelerated breeding (AB) and agroinfiltration should not be included in the discussion paper?

- a. Would you agree that the omission of these techniques from the discussion paper effectively makes an interpretation that these techniques are not GMOs as defined in the Gene Technology Act?
- b. Would you agree that biotech companies could act upon this effective decision and commercialise products using these techniques without going through any formal process with the OGTR?
 - i. IF NO: Are you then indicating these are GM techniques?
 - ii. IF YES: Then why were they excluded from the discussion paper?

Answer:

Null segregants and agroinfiltration are discussed in section 4 of the Office of Gene Technology Regulator's (OGTR) *Discussion paper: options for regulating new technologies*. The discussion paper indicates that the regulatory status of these techniques is clear in relation to the definition of 'genetically modified organism' under section 10 of the *Gene Technology Act 2000*.

- a. Not applicable.
- b. The matters canvassed in the discussion paper do not constitute a decision under an enactment.