



Review of the *Gene Technology Act 2001*
Science Policy and Evaluation Services
GPO Box 5078
BRISBANE QLD 4001
Email: qldscience@innovation.dsitia.qld.gov.au

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AusBiotech response to the Review of the Gene Technology Act 2001 (QLD)

AusBiotech welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the 2013 'Review of the Gene Technology Act 2001 (QLD)'.

AusBiotech is Australia's biotechnology industry organisation, which represents over 3,000 members, covering the human health, agricultural, medical device and diagnostics, food technology, environmental and industrial sectors in biotechnology. Many of AusBiotech's members are impacted by gene technology legislation and regulation. AusBiotech represents its members by providing expertise as industry advocates and steering committees, as well as providing industry perspectives to policy review panels.

AusBiotech supports Recommendation 3 from the Commonwealth review, which proposes that all jurisdictions follow the example of New South Wales and the Northern Territory by automatically adopting changes to gene technology regulation by reference to the Commonwealth legislation thereby achieving further administrative and efficiency gains.

We note that currently, Queensland has retained its capacity to exercise regulatory influence over its State agencies and universities through the Queensland Act, which corresponds with, but is not fully compliant with, the Commonwealth legislation. Any delay in adhering to the Commonwealth legislation causes "a period of inconsistency during which existing State legislation continues to operate until amendments can be passed by the respective legislatures."

Ensuring all jurisdictions are in "lock-step" with the Commonwealth legislation will provide predictability for the industry to commercialise GMOs and eliminate the significant disincentive for the investment and development of gene-based technology in Australia.

AusBiotech recommends that the Queensland Government renew its Act to ensure it reflects completely the Commonwealth Act, as swiftly as possible, and reconfirm its commitment to the Commonwealth, thereby providing support for a nationally-consistent scheme for gene technology regulation. This will assist in providing a consistent path-to-market for Federally-approved GMO traits.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss this in any further detail at: gcross@ausbiotech.org .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Cross".

Mr Glenn Cross
Acting Chief Executive Officer