

Agricultural Competitiveness Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
CANBERRA ACT 2600
www.agriculturalcompetitiveness.dpmc.gov.au

12 December 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

AusBiotech is pleased to submit to this consultation regarding Australia's agricultural competitiveness based on comments and submissions from AusBiotech members and from many years of working to grow Australia's strength in biotechnology.

AusBiotech is a well-connected network of over 3,000 members in the life sciences industry, which includes bio-therapeutics, medical technology, food technology, industrial and agricultural biotechnology sectors. The industry consists of an estimated 900 biotechnology companies and employs in excess of 45,000 Australians.

AusBiotech welcomes the government's recognition of the importance of primary producer access to modern technologies such as plant and animal genetics to increase farming productivity.

Biotechnology offers a set of innovative tools that will create new and improved food and fibre products, more efficient and resilient farming systems with far-reaching agronomic, environmental, nutritional, human health and economic benefits. Such benefits will strengthen Australia's competitive position in global food and fibre markets and provide increased surety of supply for domestic consumers. However, to achieve these benefits significant changes in the research, development and extension, education, and regulatory landscape will be required.

AusBiotech, through its member organisations, believes that to achieve a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector there are a set of priority activities that AusBiotech would recommend be adopted by the Australian Government as they support the overall direction and emphasis of the Green Paper.

We welcome the opportunity to be able to submit recommendations on behalf our member that will help to ensure that Australia's agricultural industry remains competitive.

Yours sincerely



Dr Anna Lavelle
CEO
AusBiotech Ltd