

Legislation, Uniform

From: Julie Newman <newmanjulie@bigpond.com>
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To: Legislation, Uniform
Subject: submission regarding uniform GT Act

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I wish to make a brief submission regarding the intention for uniform legislation regarding gene technology.

Under the terms of reference 6.3 b:

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It is of concern that the review stated Section 6 (1)2 under Action needed:

The WA State Government should “take all steps” to “secure the enactment of **any** legislation needed to achieve consistency with the Commonwealths GT laws. The GM Crops Free Areas Act 2003 is a GT law and under no circumstances should it be removed.

The Commonwealth GT laws only assess health and the environment, while State laws address economics and industry preparedness.

- No proposal or agreement should be implemented that removes the ability for states to assess economics and industry preparedness.
- Commonwealth legislation fails to address economic compensation for any escape of trials as the OGTR’s requirement is to minimise contamination, not prevent it.

Terms of reference 6.3 c:

- No treaty should override the ability for States to assess economics and protect their states farmers from economic loss caused by an international partner. If a treaty is entered into, liability for economic loss must be assigned to the industry that caused the economic loss, not to WA farmers.

Treaties are pushed by US in particular to allow international companies to partner with State and Commonwealth research sectors providing a patent is added to crops. Under the contract agreements, farmers are told what products to use and where to deliver and sell the product. The Monsanto contract stipulates US law applies which threatens Australian food security if a patent is acquired for all crops grown in Australia.

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