



Australian Academy of Science

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Dr Raj Bhula
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (MDP 54)
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601.

Send by email: ogtr@health.gov.au

Dear Dr Bhula,

Submission to the Consultation on Updating Gene Technology Regulation in Australia

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft amendments of the *Gene Technology Regulations 2001*. On considered examination, the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (the Academies) support the proposed amendments arising from the technical review of the regulations. The Academies support the expressed goals of the amendments, and believe the proposed amendments will provide clarity in the scope of genetic modifications regulated under the *Gene Technology Act* without unduly suppressing research and development in the field of gene technology. Accordingly, the Academies support **Option 2** in the consultation paper: “amend the GT Regulations by introducing all elements of the draft.”

Given that genetic modification technology is an area of rapid development and extensive economic interest to Australia, it is important the regulatory scheme is examined regularly, with rigour and based on the most current scientific evidence. The Academies look forward to participating in future reviews and consultations.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this submission, please contact Dr Stuart Barrow at stuart.barrow@science.org.au or 02 6201 9464.

Yours sincerely,

Professor David Day FAA
Secretary, Science Policy
Australian Academy of Science

Dr Matt Wenham
Executive Director, Policy
Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering