

OGTR Regulations Review

As the national coordinator of the government-industry partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia, PHA welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the OGTR Regulations Review.

Plant biosecurity is of great importance to Australia. In 2014-15 crops, horticulture and forestry production had a gross value of \$29.6 billion (ABARES Agricultural Commodity Statistics 2015). This is higher than the value of animal production industries, a situation that has existed for more than a decade. In addition to safeguarding plant production, Australia's biosecurity system protects our unique natural ecosystems.

Given the high value of Australia's plant production, PHA requests that the Regulator considers the benefits that new gene editing technology offers to plant biosecurity in the areas of preparedness for and response to plant pests and diseases in Australia.

PHA considers that the introduction of gene editing technology should be supported by an appropriate level of regulation based on sound science.

We look forward to hearing the results of your review.

Regards,

G S Fraser
Executive Director and CEO

1 December 2016