



ABCA Communique

Ms Fiona Simson | Chair

15 September 2026

The Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia (ABCA) convened at Parliament House in Canberra today, bringing together leading industry organisations from the farming, agricultural, biotechnology, and scientific sectors. The meeting provided a forum to address current and important issues related to biotechnology and Australian agriculture.

Ensuring global food and nutritional security remains a significant challenge. Threats include climate variability, geopolitical uncertainty, evolving consumer expectations, and increasing pressure on agricultural productivity and sustainability. Australian farmers remain at the forefront of these challenges and require access to the full suite of innovations available to improve resilience, productivity, and environmental outcomes. Against a rapidly evolving global regulatory and trade landscape, the Council reaffirmed the importance of ongoing regulatory modernisation. This is essential to ensure Australian agriculture remains internationally competitive and that farmers can access the latest biotechnological innovations in a timely and predictable manner.

Presentations from key policy and regulatory agencies, including the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing, the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR), and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), highlighted recent advancements in regulation and reform. ABCA members welcomed the recent release of the FSANZ guidance document, Definitions for Gene Technology and New Breeding Techniques. The Council also emphasised the importance of completing the recommendations arising from the Third Review of the National Gene Technology Scheme, given their significance for agricultural innovation, medical research, and Australia's broader biotechnology sector.

Tress Walmsley, Chief Executive Officer of InterGrain, a leading Australian cereal breeding company, provided the Council with her perspectives on the role of gene editing in transforming wheat and the importance of effective communication around biotechnology. Her presentation sparked a roundtable discussion on the opportunities and challenges of engaging stakeholders in emerging agricultural innovations.

Reaffirming its commitment to advancing public awareness, informed policymaking, and a robust efficient regulatory framework, the Council remains dedicated to ensuring that accurate, evidence-based information guides the continued development and deployment of agricultural biotechnology in Australia.

For further information on the Council's activities and broader sector insights, visit the ABCA website at www.abca.com.au.