

15 March 2016

The Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture and
Industry Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Inquiry into Agricultural Innovation

I am a third generation Western Australia farmer and I am concerned about the impact of climate change on our business. With February 2016 being the hottest month on record, it has serious implications for our nations ability to grow its food.

I would like to see the spotlight on a farming system that sequesters carbon, not the industrial model currently perpetuated by profit driven companies. This current model is unsustainable, as it requires more and more synthetic inputs each year.

With Western Australian agriculture being largely export focused, and with 38 countries around the world banning GM crops and foods it makes no sense to continue with the current model that could destroy not only our markets but ultimately our environment.

The focus needs to shift away from an industrial model to secure our future and make us competitive in the world market. With major chemical corporations funding our learning institutions we have very little data about biological systems. This gap in knowledge needs to be addressed to secure a sustainable future for agriculture in Australia.

Anne-Marie Copeland

Mukinbudin