

18 September 2012

The Hon. John Anderson AO & Prof. Adrienne Clark AC Launch Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia Ltd



Agricultural
Biotechnology
Council of
Australia

ABN 49 103 817 296

Tuesday 18 September (Canberra):

Today saw the official launch of the Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia (ABCA) at Parliament House in Canberra. The launch was held as a part of this week's Science Meets Parliament events.

ABCA is a joint initiative of AusBiotech, CropLife Australia, Grains Research and Development Corporation and the National Farmers' Federation and will act as a national coordinating organisation for the Australian agricultural biotechnology sector.

Representatives from the agriculture industry and the scientific community, as well as members of parliament, department heads and farmers heard messages from the Council's Co-Patrons, The Hon. John Anderson AO, former Deputy Prime Minister and Professor Adrienne Clarke AC, former chairman of CSIRO and Lieutenant Governor of Victoria.

The Hon. John Anderson AO commended the founding members for their foresight and commitment in establishing this important organisation. He said "I look forward to the great work that the Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia will do in assisting the nation's farming effort."

In her message, Professor Clarke highlighted the importance of scientific innovation to agricultural productivity, "Science is at the core of farming and science-based evidence needs to be the guiding framework for public policy concerning agriculture.

"If we are to have any chance of meeting the challenges posed by future food security needs, farmers must have the choice to use the technologies suited to their particular circumstances and access to all the tools we can find, to achieve the full potential of Australian food, feed and fibre production."

Claude Gauchat, Chair of ABCA explained the vision and objectives of the Council. "ABCA has been established to help shape a new era for Australian agriculture by encouraging informed debate on biotechnology through the dissemination of credible, balanced, science-based information."

"As the world's farming sector seeks to double production to meet the food and nutritional requirements of the growing global population, we have a moral imperative to encourage and develop all potential tools and technologies that will aid farmers in producing more with less, sustainably.

media release

PO BOX E10
KINGSTON
ACT 2604
AUSTRALIA

t +61 2 6269 5620

f +61 2 6273 3968

www.abca.com.au

"The Council's Mission is guided by this global food security challenge and the role that Australian agriculture can play in leading the world into a future free from hunger and malnutrition.

"Through the creation and sharing of research and knowledge, ABCA's work aims to place biotechnology and gene technology into context as another invaluable innovation for Australian agriculture; ensuring that science guides public policy for the future of farming.

"ABCA will strive to ensure that the public policy and regulatory environment is guided by scientifically credible and factually correct information regarding the full benefits that agricultural biotechnology offers to Australian farming." Mr Gauchat concluded.

For more information and to arrange interviews or comments, please call:
Jessica Lee 0410491261



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