



South East Premium
Wheat Growers' Association

**PO BOX 365
ESPERANCE WA 6450**

18th November 2010

Philip Weickhardt
Presiding Commissioner

RE: Productivity Commission Inquiry into Rural Research and Development

Dear Mr Weickhardt,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the public inquiry into research and development investment.

The South East Premium Wheat Growers' Association (SEPWA) is a non-profit grower group that was established in 1993. SEPWA's role is to promote profitable, sustainable and quality grain production in the Esperance Port Zone through facilitation of research, education and extension, liaison and partnerships with industry, communication with members and varietal improvement. There are more than 260 farmer members in SEPWA.

SEPWA members contribute a significant amount of resources to research in this region and believe that the true value of existing private investment by farmers needs to be recognised.

SEPWA supports the existing structure of research organisations such as the Grains Research and Development Corporation. We would like the Government to continue to match growers' levies on a dollar for dollar basis. Project partnership with research organisations is critical to the future economic, social and environmental development of agribusiness and rural areas.

We would like to see investment in existing research and development corporations maintained and not have the amount of money to those organisations reduced to create a new one.

We look forward to reading the final report and providing further comment.

Regards,

Lyndon Mickel
President