

9 September 2002

Mr Jeff Roberts  
Secretary  
Advisory Council on Intellectual Property  
PO Box 200  
WODEN ACT 2606

**RE: Submission to Advisory Council on Intellectual Property – Innovation Patents**

Dear Mr Roberts

I refer to the letter of 8 August 2002 from Mr Owen Malone, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Intellectual Property, calling for submissions in relation to the present exclusion of plant and animal subject matter from patentability under the innovation patent system.

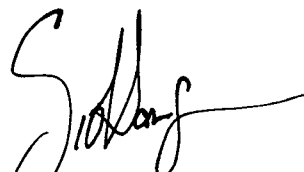
Research and development for the Australian sheepmeat industry is primarily carried out by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), funded by compulsory industry levies on producer's transactions of sheep and lambs. As such, the SCA sought the views of MLA on this issue of livestock's exclusion from innovation patents.

The SCA are informed that it is MLA's recommendation to the ACIP that plants and animals, or biological processes for the generation of plants and animals, continue to be excluded from the Innovation Patent System. We understand that this recommendation has been formed based on consultation with the wider IP professional community.

The Sheepmeat Council supports this recommendation and have encouraged MLA to register as an interested party to further discuss this matter with the ACIP.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Scott Hansen  
**Executive Director**