

## Discussion Paper for The Organic Industry

**Purpose:** The purpose of this document is to provide suggestions for the strategic evolution of the Australian Organic Industry.

**Overview:** The Australian Organic Industry is currently under a review process. As part of this review, an Industry Working Group has been formed to examine how the Organic Industry may be structured in the future. In lieu of a forthcoming teleconference, a face to face meeting has been convened.

### Outline of Industry Structure Thoughts Provided by Organic Systems & Solutions:

- (a) Background.** OS&S belongs to AO, NASAA, OFA and AOTA currently. There is a desire to have “one voice” – apparently this is the wish of DoAWR. The concept of a “Peak Body” is touted as the “one voice”. If you look at the Meat Industry, there are many “Peak Bodies” - the MLA is the R&D funded overall body, the advocacy for producers is done by the various bodies such as the Cattle Council, Sheep Meat Council etc. The advocacy for Processors is done by AMAC, and there are various levels of other bodies that provide stakeholder participation – ie AusMeat, LiveEx, in addition to independent organisations such as ABA, breed societies, ABRI, ARCBAR, NHIA etc.
- (b) Concept.** The Organic Industry is essentially a value – add of other Industries. Therefore many issues may exist over a wide range of production and processing methods, in addition to the issues that other stakeholders, such as consumer, may have.
- (c) Structure.** We propose that an R&D body be founded – for the purpose of today it will be referred to as “The Organic Coalition”. Existing Organic Industry bodies would then be members of this R&D Body.

