



Agrifood
Awareness
AUSTRALIA Limited

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The Hon. Rory McEwen
Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
GPO Box 668
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Email: pirlsa.ministers@state.sa.gov.au

Thursday, 20 March 2008

Dear Minister McEwen,

RE: Proposal to make regulations pursuant to the *Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004*

Agrifood Awareness Australia Limited

Agrifood Awareness Australia Limited (AFAA) is an industry organisation established to increase public awareness of, and encourage informed debate and decision making about, gene technology. The organisation is recognised within the grains industry as a leading provider of credible, science-based gene technology information, and our work extends across the agriculture and science communities. AFAA has three founding members – CropLife Australia, the Grains Research and Development Corporation and the National Farmers' Federation – and is also supported by the Grain Growers Association, the sugar and cotton industries and through a project partnership with the red meat industry.

Maintaining a moratorium

Agrifood Awareness Australia Limited would like to express disappointment at the decision made by the South Australian Government to continue the moratorium preventing the cultivation of GM food crops in South Australia, primarily approved GM canola varieties. AFAA is particularly disappointed that the Government has chosen to ignore the recommendations of its Expert Committee, following a thorough and transparent review process, and in doing so has endorsed a policy of 'no choice' for the State's agribusiness sector.

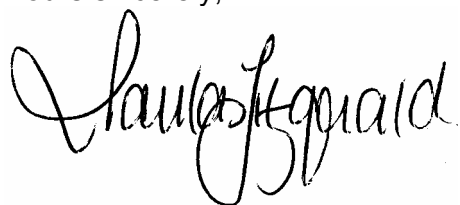
GM Crops Management Act

In a joint media statement with the South Australian Premier you announced the Government's intention to make a regulation which will designate the entire State as an area in which GM food crops cannot be cultivated. While AFAA does not support such regulations, if the Government is intent upon taking such action, AFAA requests that such regulations include a clear timeframe and/or date by which the regulations will be reviewed. AFAA notes your comments regarding "watching to see how NSW and Victoria address key issues ..." and believes that a timeframe needs to be set in order for the grains industry to deliver, against a clearly defined set of criteria, evidence that it has successfully addressed issues.

Further, it is our understanding that the “cultivation” of GM food crops under the *Act* may incorporate transport. AFAA believes that transport should be exempt from such regulation as we do not believe that transporting grain (in a ship or via rail or truck) is the same as cultivating, or disseminating, a crop. AFAA therefore requests that the new regulations allow for the normal transport of grain, including GM canola, to continue in the state of South Australia, particularly following the approval of cultivation of approved GM canola varieties in New South Wales and Victoria.

Going forward, AFAA encourages the South Australian Government to implement regulations which present the South Australian community – from seed producer to retail consumer – with genuine choice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Fitzgerald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paula Fitzgerald
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR