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Quacks on GM

Margaret River doctors (“Margaret River doctors join GM food protests”, *West Australian*, 6 August 2009) claim that there is no rush or need for GM food now or in the near future. They appear to have missed the boat.

GM crops have been successfully grown, traded and consumed in Australia and around the world since 1996. Ingredients from corn and soybeans are in our food products and can be identified through Australia’s GM food labelling laws, introduced in 2001, to provide consumer choice.

GM crops are helping solve our biggest food production challenges including climate change, drought, and pest attack. In the future, they will also contribute solutions to some of our growing societal health concerns such as diabetes and heart disease. This will be achieved through GM crop varieties with healthier oil profiles and low GI grains.

Doctors, councils and citizens forming opinions on plant science technologies need to consider that all gene technology research and resulting products are highly regulated in Australia to ensure human health and environmental safety; that GM cotton and canola grown in Australia are delivering new sustainable production targets; and finally, that gene technology is being deployed in a range of areas including plant science, animal health (gene technology provided a vaccine for equine influenza) and human health (gene technology is used in insulin production and could deliver a swine flu vaccine).

Australian agriculture uses solid science and innovation to deliver sustainable, safe food and customer choice. Surely, quacks deal with facts?

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(Letter to the Editor, *West Australian*, 248 words)