



# Media Release

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## Corn imports – Let farmers feed stock

Corn imports entering Australia have been assessed and approved by regulatory authorities and provide farmers with necessary stock feed during one of Australia's worst droughts.

"Calls by anti-GM groups to reject corn imports are an insult to Australian farmers who are suffering enormously in this time of need," said Paula Fitzgerald, Executive Manager, Agrifood Awareness Australia.

A shipment of 48,000 tonnes of corn arrived in Australia yesterday (8 January). As the corn came from the United States where genetically modified (GM) and non-GM crops are co-mingled, the corn was assessed under Australia's gene technology regulatory framework.

"The corn shipment has been thoroughly assessed and approved by both the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service for quarantine issues, and the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator because of its GM component," she said.

"The Gene Technology Regulator has imposed licence conditions which state that the corn must be transported in covered trucks, and processed so that it is no longer viable, meaning that it will not be able to be grown from seed," she said.

"There is no scientific evidence to suggest GM animal feed poses any risk to human health and safety," she said.

"Numerous studies have been conducted around the world to examine GM animal feed both on the animals themselves and on the by-products," she said.

"These studies overwhelmingly conclude that there is no effect from feeding approved GM crops to livestock and poultry on the nutritional value or safety of meat, milk and eggs," she said.

"GM animal feed, like all feed, is broken down during digestion, so by-products from animals fed GM crops are no different to those from animals fed non-GM feed," she said.

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