



## **AOF Media Release**

**Wednesday 28th November, 2007**

### **AOF welcomes decision to remove GM canola moratorium**

The Australian Oilseeds Federation's (AOF) President, Robert Green, welcomed today's decision by the NSW and Victorian Governments to remove the moratorium on growing genetically modified (GM) canola.

"These decisions will provide the Australian canola industry, from growers to consumers, with the opportunity to exercise choice, and will provide Australian canola growers with more options to help them maintain and improve their competitiveness," he said.

"This is a progressive decision for the industry and will help position the industry to take advantage of the opportunities for canola in world markets.

"It will also encourage investment in canola research and development.

"The AOF has supported the removal of the moratorium on basis that this will deliver market choice; and consumers who wish to purchase non-GM canola can be assured that the Australian industry has the capacity to deliver this choice," said Mr Green.

"The industry is confident that it has the capability to provide segregation of GM and non GM crops and this has already been extensively documented in the industry's Delivering Market Choice documents," he said.

The Australian grains industry's experience and capacity to deliver choice across the supply chain is based on the comprehensive and world-class protocols and processes that already operate.

GM crops are thoroughly assessed and approved at the Federal level by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OTGR) and Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) for both human and environmental health and safety. Two GM canola varieties have been approved for commercial release in Australia.

"Today's decision by the NSW and Victorian Governments is an important step forward and provides the opportunity for productivity and environmental benefits for the Australian canola industry," said Mr Green.

For further information: Mr Robert Green - 03 9268 7301