



8 February 2008

SA DECISION ON CANOLA: BAD NEWS FOR GROWERS, CONSUMERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

CropLife Australia is extremely disappointed with today's decision by the South Australian Government to extend the moratorium on growing GM canola beyond 28 April 2008 when the current regulations were due to lapse.

The move goes directly against the recommendations made by the GM Crops Advisory Committee to lift the moratorium in all areas of South Australia except Kangaroo Island from April this year.

The decision is also out of step with the findings and recommendations of recent thorough and independent reviews in Victoria and NSW. It is also out of step with Queensland which does not have moratorium legislation.

The decision removes choice from South Australian farmers who will now not be able to take advantage of increased wheat production and increased canola production.

At a time of record grain prices and challenges brought about by climate change, the Government have chosen to prevent farmers having the choice to access varieties that provide significant environmental benefits to growers and consumers.

The South Australian Government's concerns regarding the impact of exporting GM grains are unfounded with more than 10 million farmers in 22 countries around the world currently growing 100 million hectares of GM crops each year.

The Premier's decision is based in part on misinterpretation of the ABARE work which has shown that commercialisation of GM canola would have negligible impacts on the organic canola, honey and livestock industries.

ABARE research has also clearly demonstrated that there is also no premium for non-GM canola.

Recent work by consultants, universities, professional independent economists (eg ABARE) and grain marketers and traders have all independently concluded that there are not currently widespread price premiums for Australian canola because it is non-GM.

CropLife will actively engage in the public consultation period and maintains that there is no reason or basis for the moratorium to remain.

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