



GOODMAN FIELDER – CHOICE IS KEY

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- Media statements today have reported that Goodman Fielder is lobbying for the extension of the state based bans on the commercialisation of GM canola.
- The Australian grain industry recognises that customers have different needs and is committed to delivering choice. This position is clearly stated in the industry statement - "Delivering Market Choice with GM canola" which was launched in August and endorsed by 29 organisations including the Australian Seed Federation, the Australia Oilseeds Federation, the National Farmers' Federation and the Australian Food and Grocery Council. (see http://www.afaa.com.au/pdf/Delivering_Market_Choice_with_GM_canola.pdf).
- Australian farmers need access to the best available technologies to remain competitive in the global marketplace.
- Australia is not "GM free" as some claim. Australia cotton growers have grown GM cotton for over a decade - which includes the production and sale of oil from GM cotton. GM cotton has delivered considerable benefits (particularly environmental benefits) and the industry has not faced any negative market or trade implications since its introduction.
- On a technical level oil does not contain any DNA or protein - so oil from GM canola is the same as oil from conventional canola. From a scientific position, if Australian farmers have the opportunity to grow GM canola it would make no difference to food processors - as the oil from GM canola would be the same as the oil currently produced from Australia's non-GM canola.
- Australia imports soybean oil and meal, cottonseed oil and canola seed much of which is derived from GM varieties.
- It is disappointing that Goodman Fielder has put its company or shareholder considerations before that of the industry. The agriculture sector does not come to a halt because of the commercial interests of one entity. The Australian grains industry is committed to delivering choice to its customers – from farmers to consumers – and is supporting the removal of the current state-based moratoria.
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