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## **GRDC supports grower choice**

The NSW government decision to grant approval for genetically modified (GM) canola to be grown by NSW farmers has been welcomed by GRDC Chairman, Keith Perrett.

Mr Perrett, a NSW graingrower, said the decision allows growers to keep pace with their Victorian counterparts and the chance to bridge the technology gap with their main competitors in north and south America.

“More than a decade’s experience with GM canola varieties in other countries has demonstrated the technology’s benefits,” Mr Perrett said.

“The decision now gives the Australian canola industry greater choice and certainty and places the industry on a level footing with its’ international competitors.

“This announcement provides a clear path forward that will allow Australian grain growers to benefit from a much-needed technology boost to enhance their international competitiveness in global grain markets.

“Genetic engineering technologies can enhance the agronomic performance of crops and produce specialty products for a range of markets.

“The Australian grains industry is committed to delivering market choice and has worked hard to develop processes and protocols for the management of GM and non-GM grains within the Australian grains supply chain.

“The processes and protocols have received widespread industry endorsement by representative industry organisations and grower bodies, including grain handlers and marketers.

“GRDC supports an informed debate that ultimately facilitates grower and consumer choice. This is against a background of increasing community and industry awareness of the science involved and of the capacity of biotechnology, including GM technology, to deliver a range of consumer and production benefits.

“Knowledge remains the key to both growers and consumers being able to choose whether or not they wish to utilise products of this science,” Mr Perrett said.

**ENDS**

**For further information: Ms Kylie Paulsen Mob: 0428 864 934**