



## GM Decision Welcomed

**Media Release**

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Today's announcement by Hon. Ian Macdonald, the NSW Minister for Agriculture, that the state's canola growers are now authorized to grow approved GM canola has been applauded by the grass roots farmer group, the Producers Forum.

The NSW Government has accepted the advice of its Expert Committee on Gene Technology that the industry has satisfied all the criteria required under the act. Approved GM canola varieties can be grown in the 2008 season in NSW.

Producers Forum NSW representative, Wayne McKay, said that rank and file canola farmers have been waiting for this day for a long, long time.

"Finally, NSW canola growers will be able to access this new technology which has been available to our international competitors for over 10 years.

"I must commend the government on making a decision based on the evidence - both scientific and market based. The decision will benefit farmers, consumers and the environment," Mr McKay said.

"Our markets accept approved GM canola and the industry has demonstrated that it can manage the supply chain process to deliver the products – both GM and non-GM - that the markets demand.

"Ultimately, we will all benefit from this decision through the environmental outcomes associated with reduced tillage, use of benign chemistry and savings from more flexible farm and agronomy management choices.

"Farmers need to have access to all the best technologies to meet our environmental aims and continue to produce healthy, safe and affordable food.

Today's decision demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to the productivity and prosperity of the states agricultural sector," Mr McKay said.

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*The Producers Forum is a national group of agricultural producers. For further information see [www.producersforum.net.au](http://www.producersforum.net.au)*