

Media release

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### **Pioneer Hi-Bred Australia welcomes GM canola go-ahead from New South Wales**

Seed company Pioneer Hi-Bred Australia has welcomed news that the New South Wales State Government has joined Victoria in giving final approval for commercial production of GM canola.

General Manager for Pioneer Hi-Bred Australia, Keith Glasson, said today's announcement allows New South Wales farmers to access leading edge technology that has been available to their international competitors for more than a decade.

"We applaud Minister Macdonald's office for this outcome, which means the canola industry in New South Wales now has a positive future." Mr Glasson said.

Although the moratorium on growing GM canola in New South Wales was removed earlier this month, an approval process including a review by an expert committee, is in place in this state before any GM crops (approved at the Federal level) can be grown.

"Pioneer was very happy to work with the New South Wales government throughout this process for GM canola," Mr Glasson said.

"We are very pleased with today's timely announcement, which means the pilot program for Roundup Ready canola can now be put in place this season."

Mr Glasson said a small amount of a new Pioneer Roundup Ready canola hybrid, 46Y20, would be available in 2008 but the first season would be carefully controlled and would only involve a small number of growers.

"We expect to have larger quantities available of this and other hybrids with the Roundup Ready gene in 2009.

"This new technology will allow canola farmers to substantially increase their yields, minimise cost, maximise gross margins, and protect the environment and the international competitiveness of their industry," Mr Glasson said.

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