



## **FARMERS SUPPORT USE OF GM TECHNOLOGY**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**MONDAY 24-11-08**

Suggestions that food produced using approved GM technology may be unsafe are untrue and irresponsible.

This comes with the release today of the so-called 'True Food Guide'.

"It is disturbing that Greenpeace and some chefs suggest that Australian food is unsafe," says Wayne McKay, a NSW farmer who is now growing GM canola.

"Farmers are vitally concerned about the quality of the products they produce, thus they are enthusiastic supporters of GM technology knowing that approved GM products are the most tested on the market and have the best safety profile", he said.

"GM products that are available have been through a rigorous and thorough regulatory and testing system and have been shown to be safe, clean and 'green'.

"It is irresponsible to suggest or imply that our food is unsafe. Australian food and Australian farmers have an immaculate safety record in countries around the world where we market our produce.

"As well as producing high quality food for both the domestic and export markets, our industry has stewardship programs and handling systems in place to ensure that we can deliver a choice of GM or non-GM to our markets," Mr McKay said.

"Consumers and chefs are free to exercise their right to choose and promote the foods they use. We are all also entitled to be confident in the safety of the food we eat and not be subjected to scare-mongering when the evidence says the food is safe," he said.

**Contacts:**

Wayne McKay – NSW: Ph 0428 529345  
Jeff Bidstrup – National Convenor: Ph 0427 063270  
Chris Kelly – Victoria: Ph 0409 508122  
John Snooke – Western Australia 0417 964362  
Heather Baldock – South Australia 0428 101416

*The Producers Forum is a national group of grain, oilseed, dried fruit, dairy, cotton, beef and sheep producers from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.*