



MEDIA RELEASE

Grain Growers Association Ltd, 1 Rivett Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113
Ph: (02) 9886 2200 Fax (02) 9886 2299 www.graingrowers.com.au

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GM Technology: GGA supports choice

Grain Growers Association (GGA) has today confirmed its position to support growers' rights to be able to access GM technology, particularly GM Canola.

GGA Chairman John Eastburn said GM technology provided enormous benefits across a number of crops and the grains industry is well placed to deliver these benefits.

"Research has shown that GM Canola, for example, provides increased weed control, higher yield and better oil quality over conventional varieties.

"Clearly, growers have the right to access this important technology," he said.

Mr Eastburn said that in 2007 the New South Wales and Victorian Governments conducted comprehensive reviews around potential marketing and trading aspects of GM Canola.

"The reviews found that where GM Canola is concerned, the grain supply chain has well-established systems in place to meet market requirements and deliver market choice," Mr Eastburn said.

GGA was a signatory to the 2007 national statement *Delivering Market Choice with GM Canola*, where the grains industry committed to delivering choice and noted that the industry has the protocols and processes available to meet market requirements for GM Canola.

"In 2008 we've seen the first commercially grown crops of GM Canola in NSW and Victoria and their harvest proved that these established systems and protocols are very effective in operation.

"It is important that farmers have the right to choose.

"Equally, it's important that such significant agricultural productivity and sustainability benefits are not denied by groups peddling superstition rather than fact," Mr Eastburn said.

Media enquiries: Suzanne Laing 02 8204 3853 or 0404 116 905.