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## Media Release

### Producers Forum applauds WA GM canola announcement

The Producers Forum emphatically applauds today's decision by the Western Australian government to enable the growing of GM varieties of canola in 2009. WA Convenor, John Snooke, says this is the right decision for the future of WA agriculture.

"The Victorian and NSW governments scrapped their out-dated state-based moratoriums last year in light of comprehensive evidence that approved GM varieties offer many advantages over the old, traditional canola varieties and that the industry has all the procedures and processes in place to deliver choice and meet market requirements.

"We heartily congratulate the WA government and the Agriculture Minister Mr Redman in particular, for having the foresight and strength to carry this matter forward in WA. The cotton industry is appreciative, and the canola industry is too.

"This will provide an enormous boost to farmer productivity and profitability; it will allow us to increase our competitiveness with Canadian growers for key markets in Europe, the America's and Asia – including Japan."

Mr Snooke added that numerous government and scientific reports point to the range of benefits offered by GM canola.

"These include environmental benefits through reduced tillage and diesel fuel usage, increased use of benign herbicides, and improved yields of following wheat crops.

"WA farmers led the no-till revolution; the capacity to use GM canola is the next logical step, and I have absolutely no doubt that WA farmers will quickly embrace GM varieties."

Other reports have repeatedly shown that there is no premium for non-GM over GM varieties. In 2007, the grains industry produced the document, 'Delivering Market Choice with GM canola' which defined its preparedness and capacity to provide choice along the supply chain.

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The Producers Forum is a national group of grain, oilseed, dried fruit, cotton, dairy, and beef and sheep producers from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia who support the use of approved technology, including biotechnology, to simultaneously increase sustainability, productivity and competitiveness.