



## Minister for Agriculture and Food

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15/4/09

## Media Statement

### **GM canola trial sites announced.**

Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman today announced the locations of the 20 genetically modified canola trials in Western Australia.

The locations comprise 17 farmer trials and three research trials, covering 854 hectares across the State.

Mr Redman said the trials would see three farmer sites at Cunderdin; two at Woogenellup and York; and single sites at Aldersyde, Beverley, Bulyee, Dudinin, Frankland River, Kendenup, Many Peaks, Mobrur, Quairading and South Stirling. The sites vary in size from 30 to 70 hectares.

“The research trial sites are located on Department of Agriculture and Food research facilities at Geraldton (8 hectares) and Esperance (15 ha) and on a farm property at Wongan Hills (2 ha),” he said.

“One of the research trials will look at issues of glyphosate on wild radish and demonstrate the differences in weed management with the different herbicide technologies that might be available to farmers.

“The two other research sites at Geraldton and Esperance will demonstrate the Roundup Ready technology in different conditions and comparing the different herbicide tolerant systems available (such as RR, TT, Clearfield).”

The Minister said each farmer participating in the trials must have completed the CBH on-farm quality assurance ‘Better Farm IQ’ program before they could commence planting the GM crop.

“Farmers have undertaken the Monsanto Roundup Ready canola stewardship program, completed crop management and resistance management plans and licensing documentation,” he said.

“They have completed the Department of Agriculture and Food application requirements for the trials and notified their neighbours of their intention to plant GM canola.”

Mr Redman said the Department of Agriculture and Food would be undertaking regular monitoring of the trials and provide a report at the end of the season.

“CBH have nominated two receival points - one at Mt Kokeby (between Beverley and Brookton) and the other at the Metro Grain Centre at Forrestfield,” the Minister said.

“The decision to allow small scale commercial GM canola trials tests that both GM and non-GM canola can be grown, transported, handled, and exported as separate grains.

“By allowing these trials to proceed, the State Government is taking a managed approach which allows research to resume into the use of GM technology while the supply chain is monitored.”

Further information is available from the Department of Agriculture and Food’s website <http://www.agric.wa.gov.au> or for specific enquiries please email [gmcrops@agric.wa.com.au](mailto:gmcrops@agric.wa.com.au)

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