



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Wednesday, 15 April 2009**

**Get on with the business of WA farming**

The Western Australian government and its Minister for Agriculture, Terry Redman, have made the right decision on GM canola for the broader WA farm sector and are to be applauded for their capacity to implement progressive policy.

National Convenor of the grassroots farmer body, the Producers Forum and WA farmer, Rod Birch, says Mr Redman has outshone the political manoeuvring of activists.

"You'd have to be living under a log in WA not to notice the ploys, attempts and stunts to try to de-rail the limited sowing of GM canola in WA in 2009.

"We're just wondering why the activists are putting so much effort into their campaign. Are they worried that the 2009 season will be successful and their funds will be wasted?"

"Really, the hard fact is that farmers are looking forward to seeing how the GM canola varieties perform in our farming environment and systems, to offer a much-needed alternative weed control measure and productivity boost."

WA Co-ordinator of the Producers Forum and fellow WA farmer, John Snooke, also congratulates the Minister for steering the long-overdue policy through the maelstrom of groundless musings and diversion tactics by ideological campaigners and some elected representatives.

"Western Australian grain growers have watched with great interest how the new canola varieties have performed in the eastern states. We know that if the season unfolds properly in the east, there could be a 10-fold increase in plantings in NSW and Victoria.

"How is it that so many farmers will adopt an oilseed variety and production technology just in its second year - while the ideologues keep shrouding it gloom and doom?"

Mr Snooke calls for sense and reality. "Let's get on with the real business of adopting a globally proven and endorsed technology that will bring advantages to WA's farmers and environment.

"And let's move on from the web of political plays that seek to deny choice and impose an ideology on the State and its farmers," he said.

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