



MEDIA RELEASE

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FARMERS CONDEMN GREENPEACE ASSAULT

Today the multi-million dollar multi-national Greenpeace continued its assault on Australian agriculture and in doing so revealed its true nature.

By illegally entering the CSIRO property and deliberately destroying trial plots at the site, the Greenpeace activists and those who support them are making a mockery of Australia's dearly held democratic rights and freedoms.

"Our farmers are appalled at the unconscionable actions of the trespassers and believe that they should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law," said Heather Baldock, National Convenor of Producers Forum.

"People have been contacting me to express their outrage and wondering what we can do about it. Civil protest is one thing. Wilful, illegal, destruction is something else entirely and must be roundly condemned," she continued.

"This is the nation's property yet we have individuals, egged on by a multi-national NGO, willing to destroy it. It is hardly a wonder people are outraged," Ms Baldock said.

"Australian farmers are innovators. Adopting new tools, techniques and technologies have allowed them to be among the best in the world, made possible by the support of Australian scientists and research organisations.

"The research and development (R&D) and innovation that today allows Australian farmers to produce the safe, healthy and affordable food that consumers value and expect continues to be needed to face the challenges of food production into the future. Our farmers are rightfully proud of the quality, quantity and variety of foods they produce," Ms Baldock added.

Wayne McKay farms in the Central West of NSW. He says that the Australian grain industry strongly supports R&D in all facets of agriculture including GM crops, and notes that the rate of production increase in Australia has declined and that Australians do not need fear mongering naysayers trying to undermine and destroy valuable R&D that supports agriculture and food production.

"Australia's CSIRO is recognised world-wide as a first class research organisation. The scientists working in the fields of molecular biology and gene technology operate within the processes and guidelines set down by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) and our regulatory system is widely regarded as among the best in the world.

"To imply that these scientists are doing anything that would harm Australians or any other people is quite simply and demonstrably wrong. It certainly does Greenpeace no credit," Mr McKay said.

"Attacking our CSIRO is a bit like attacking motherhood," he said.

Ms Baldock says that the community must question Greenpeace's motives in attacking a technology that is good for the environment, and helps small farmers in developing nations to become more self sufficient.

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The Producers Forum is a national group grain, oilseed, dried fruit, cotton, dairy, and beef and sheep producers from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and West Australia. For further information visit: www.producersforum.net.au