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## **Farmers condemn attack on GM research crop**

NSW Farmers' has condemned the actions of Greenpeace protesters who scaled a fence and destroyed a crop of Genetically-Modified (GM) wheat at a CSIRO farm in Canberra.

NSW Farmers' Grains Committee Chair Mark Hoskinson says not only is it illegal, but it has destroyed valuable research, which has been paid for by Australian grain growers levies.

"Greenpeace has shown how completely irresponsible it is and has shown contempt for the biosecurity protocols that have been put in place in a controlled environment by the trained and professional CSIRO staff," he said.

"For all they know, they could have spread about spores of a new virulent pathogen of stripe rust. I sincerely hope that isn't the case, but the risk is there for this type of protest. The protesters jeopardised valuable seed or grain that could be used for future trials.

"NSW Farmers' is committed to maintaining choice and coexistence for Australian grain growers and supports research and development into GM crops.

"NSW Farmers' proactively supports research and development, and market and trade discussions for future GM crops - as long as the supply chain can effectively segregate, as has been the case with GM Canola," he said

NSW Farmers' supports policy that is based upon rigorous evaluation of GM products and credible peer-reviewed data.

"Actions like that of the Greenpeace protesters reduce the chance for this data to be produced in a controlled environment," Mark Hoskinson said.

Industry estimates that GM wheat is at least seven years away. NSW Farmers' will continue to work with the domestic and international grains industries, regulators, growers, food manufacturers and customers until that time.

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