

Media Release



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Industry welcomes Liberals' sensible GM policy

AusBiotech, the national biotechnology organisation, strongly supports the policy put forward by the WA Liberals supporting GM commercialisation in that State.

“Comments by the Liberal Leader, Colin Barnett and Shadow Agricultural Minister Gary Snook demonstrate that the WA Liberals are showing leadership on this issue,” AusBiotech CEO, Dr Anna Lavelle said today.

“Allowing consideration of GM cotton in the Ord and commercialisation of GM canola following a staged introduction is a sensible policy position.”

GM cotton has been grown in Australia for 10 years, with 90 per cent of the cotton crop being GM – which has reduced pesticide use on these crops by around 85 per cent. GM canola is currently being grown in NSW and Victoria by about 110 farmers, with each farmer on average growing 88ha. GM canola has been assessed as safe, both in Australia and overseas by regulatory agencies focusing on food and environmental safety.

Federal Government surveys show Australians are increasingly accepting GM crops ranging from oil-producing canola and cotton, through to those that can have positive effects on dietary intakes of micro-nutrients and the environment.

“The Liberals' position has taken due stock of the science, farmer groups and global markets,” Dr Lavelle said.

“With access to all the technologies currently available, WA farmers can continue to do what they do best – produce safe, high quality food for their customers.”