

# Media Release



14 March 2008

## **AusBiotech applauds NSW GM crops decision**

AusBiotech, the national biotechnology organisation, has welcomed NSW Primary Industries Minister Ian MacDonald's announcement that genetically modified (GM) canola may now be cultivated in that State.

Dr Anna Lavelle, CEO of AusBiotech, said this announcement showed that the NSW Government had taken a sensible and logical approach to the issue.

"Australian Federal regulators are very thorough when considering GM crops, examining both human and environmental health and safety, for use as food," Dr Lavelle said.

"This announcement, coupled with Victoria's recent decision to also lift its moratorium on GM canola, shows the State Governments are now accepting the role of our Federal regulators.

"Marketing considerations for GM crops should be left to the industry and not regulated at the State level".

Dr Lavelle said the moratorium on GM canola in NSW was illogical, considering GM cotton has been used in NSW since 1996.

"Although the NSW Act targeted canola as a food crop, GM cottonseed oil is also readily consumed in Australia," Dr Lavelle said.

"NSW cotton farmers have had access to GM crops for the past 10 years, reducing insecticide use by up to 75 per cent. This benefits both the growers and the environment."

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Dr Ian Edwards, Chair of the AusBiotech Agricultural Advisory Committee, also applauded the decision.

“The adoption of GM crops in both developing and developed countries continues to increase,” Dr Edwards said.

“NSW cotton farmers have benefited from the technology for 10 years. We think it is about time NSW farmers had access to GM canola.”

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