

2008 Annual Conference

That the Association lobby both State and Federal Governments to protect non-GM canola growers from costs arising from cross contamination, liability, segregation, and any other detrimental issues that will occur with the commencement of growing GM canola and other GM food crops grown on a commercial scale within Australia.

That the Association support full transparent labelling of GM ingredients in all imported and domestic products including livestock.

That, based on sound credible data, the Association work with industry and Government to inform its members and other consumers of the known and potential benefits of GM technology as applied to food crops and of the role of the regulatory authorities (Office of Gene Technology Regulator and Food Standards Australia and New Zealand) in protecting the health and safety of people and the environment.

2007 Annual Conference

That the Association;

- a) give priority to achieving removal of the GM crop moratorium via a high profile public stance and proactive participation in the review process in a coordinated campaign with the farmer organisations of other states;*
- b) lobby for further work on GM takeall resistance to be continued in Australia; and*
- c) lobby for further funding for research and development into conferring drought resistance in crops using GM techniques.*

2007 March Executive Council

That Executive Council rescind the GM motion passed at the Executive Council meeting of 10 and 11 October 2006.

2006 October Executive Council

That the Association revisit the GMO debate with the following:

- a) That the Association continue to explore the 2003 motions Grower issues to be addressed during the period of the NSW Government Moratorium on GM food crops with particular reference to the following:*
 - i) Market implications i.e. loss of markets, price discounts and loss of current premiums being paid for GMO free food crops and market resistance;*
 - ii) Legal ramifications on liability in the event of inevitable contamination on GM growers and marketers plus associated industries i.e. grain harvesters, seed graders and transport operators etc;*
 - iii) Independent data be made available on all relevant issues including yields, herbicide regimes and independent health studies on the human consumption of GM food; and*
 - iv) All persons serving on boards and committees relating to the decision-making of GM food crops to declare all pecuniary interests.*

2006 Annual Conference

That the Association;

- *lobby the Primary Industries Ministerial Council to set adventitious presence levels of GM for all crops;*
- *investigate the development of a practical, objective and inexpensive 'on-farm' GM detection test;*
- *implement an encompassing farmer education and awareness campaign regarding GM canola before the end of the current moratorium; and*
- *call for the immediate lifting of the moratorium on GM crops in NSW.*

2005 Oct EC

That the Association advise the Minister for Agriculture that the grain industry needs a threshold for the unintended presence of GM in non-GM products. The threshold levels should be 0.5% for seed and 0.9% for grain.

2005 AC

That the Association lead a whole of industry push to resolve issues preventing the commercial release of genetically modified canola, before the expiry of the existing moratorium.

2005 Feb EC

That the Association lobby DAFF to create an objective national framework to process the commercial release of GM crops following approval by the Gene Technology Regulator.

2004 Oct EC

That the Association write to the NSW Minister for Primary Industries requesting GM canola trials in 2005.

2004 Apr EC/AC 04

That the Association support:

- (a) biotechnology as one of a number of innovative tools for improving the productivity and sustainability of agriculture;*
- (b) continued research into, and trialling and evaluation of, individual GM agricultural products; and*
- (c) the commercial release of GM products provided that:
 - (i) the appropriate regulatory authority stringently assesses all possible human health and environmental risks using independent data;*
 - (ii) the release is clearly supported by all sections of industry concerned on the basis of its significant economic or environmental benefits;*
 - (iii) the interests of farmers affected by the commercial release are protected, where necessary, by a cost-effective and robust system of identity preservation implemented along the length of the supply chain; and*
 - (iv) farmers are able to insure against potential litigation that might result from their adoption of the technology.**
- (d) The promotion of the facts about biotechnology and Genetically Modified Organisms to farmers, government and the community in general.*

2003 Oct EC

That the Association seeks that the NSW Minister for Agriculture publicly releases the specific issues/questions that GM canola trials in NSW will address and answer during the three year moratorium. These issues must include:

- (a) Agronomic performance*
- (b) Insurance*
- (c) Liability*
- (d) Segregation*
- (e) Marketing and trade.*

2003 Oct EC

That the Association supports the following types of trials of GM canola provided that they are approved by the NSW Agriculture Council on Gene Technology (NACGT):-

- (a) on farm agronomic trials to test GM varieties against conventional varieties,*
- (b) on farm demonstration areas and seed increase areas in a range of environments,*
- (c) segregation in the receival system, and*
- (d) marketing of holds or bulk cargo to test client satisfaction and delivery chain segregation.*

2003 Apr EC

That the Association support a three (3) year trial of GM canola in NSW (up to a maximum of 5,000 Hectares per annum) as a condition of the license to be issued by the OGTR, and/or as Legislation of the NSW State Government, with results from these trials made publicly available and an appropriate timeframe set for industry to comment before any commercial release is approved.

2003 Apr EC

That the Association support the creation of an independent GM canola committee to monitor and report publicly on the three year trial (5,000 Ha/yr) of GM canola in NSW.

2002 AC

That the Association support

- (a) the most stringent monitoring of the trials of GM Canola to ensure compliance with the OGTR;*
- (b) the postponement of the general release plans for GM and Round-up Ready Canola in Australia until such a time as all identity preservation issues affecting marketing and trade issues are fully addressed by Government and industry.*

AC 00

That the Association support a rigorous but sensible approach to the legislation that governs the release of GM products such that food safety concerns are paramount but that arrangements are not so cumbersome as to pose unreasonable delays or costs on the process.

AC 00

That the Association support the protection and fostering of the competitive position of Australia's biotechnology sector.

AC 00

That the Association seek Federal Government assistance to compliment GMO research with a Government funded plant breeding and seed production crop rotation systems to ensure Australia retains its position as a producer of safe healthy clean foods.

AC 00

That the Association seek that governments introduce accurate detailed labelling of all GM food products.

97 May GC

That the Association seek alteration to the AQIS legislation to require AQIS to refer to the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee (GTTAC) for the importation of genetically modified plant and animal material.