

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007



# NEWS

PR/194/07

Tuesday 17 July, 2007.

## GM position clear

The NSW Farmers' Association says farmers' ability to choose whether they should access Genetically Modified technology convinced delegates to reinforce its policy in support of the removal of the current moratorium at Annual Conference today.

President of the NSW Farmers' Association Jock Laurie says the Government's appointment of an independent panel to review the states Genetically Modified (GM) moratorium is a step in the right direction.

"The panel seems to offer a good mix of skills and experience with which to tackle the review, but we would reiterate that the review of the legislation should be confined to the marketing and trade aspects of the issue," Mr Laurie said.

"The NSW, Victorian and South Australian GM moratoriums are all set to expire in March 2008 and we will be arguing that these Governments come to a collective decision given the interstate trade and movement of grain.

The Association has provided independent and peer reviewed reports to members, and is supporting a proposal for Federal Government funding for grower workshops on the issue.

The NSW *Gene Technology Moratorium Act 2003* (GM moratorium) prohibits the deliberate cultivation of Genetically Modified (GM) crops consumed by humans until March 2008.

"Delegates at Annual Conference have reiterated their support for the removal of the moratorium, and we will heavily involved in the review process," Mr Laurie concluded.

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**NSW Farmers' Association Annual Conference will be webcast from 8:30am – 5:30pm Tuesday 17 to Thursday 19 July 2007. Visit [www.nswfarmers.org.au](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au) for details**

*Fast Fact: Quality Assurance programs on farms based on the ISO9000 series provides a guarantee of the quality and safety of the food product*