

19th November 2020

The Hon David Basham MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Via email: finniss@parliament.sa.gov.au

RE: SSA Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004

Dear Minister,

I am writing to acknowledge and congratulate the South Australian Government's decision to provide canola producers and industry with market choice, and to maintain the decision to lift the 16-year moratorium on GM crops being grown in South Australia (SA) and rejecting all eleven applications to maintain a genetically modified (GM) crop ban in SA local government areas..

GTA and its members are supportive of GM crops having developed an industry driven Market Choice Framework ([link here:](#)) to provide guidance and stewardship to the Australian grain industry in regard to GM Grain.

The Market Choice Framework's objective is to deliver confidence to the industry, governments and the community that the grain supply chain can manage both GM and non-GM crops and ensure market access is maintained or enhanced and thus ensuring there is market choice for the domestic and global grain trade supply chains.

The Market Choice Framework is targeted at ensuring the commercial introduction of GM crops is undertaken in a manner that:

- Maintains or enhances trade in the Australian grain industry;
- Enables market choice along the supply chain, while being consistent with bulk handling systems and manufacturing practices;
- Is open and transparent; and
- Provides confidence to all stakeholders, particularly to customers, consumers, and governments in relation to the certainty and viability of supply to participants along the supply chain.

Non canola GM crops have now coexisted in Australia since 1996 with GM modified canola varieties also approved to be grown in 2008 by the Commonwealth's Office of Gene Technology Regulator in Victoria and New South Wales. I am pleased to advise that since the inception the stewardship protocols that are in place, they have been proven to support the coexistence of GM and non-GM practices within and across different agricultural sectors in these areas. We are confident the grain industry practices, and its quality assurance system will be readily adapted to support the commercialisation of GM crops in SA.

The SA Government decision is welcomed and will provide for a healthy and enhanced agricultural trade sector in SA.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,



Pat O'Shannassy
CEO, Grain Trade Australia