



MEDIA RELEASE

NEW REPORT CONFIRMS SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT STATE BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS DELIVERS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO ANY FARMER

6 MARCH 2018 (Canberra) – A new report by independent market analysts Mecardo released today is clear and undeniable evidence that the South Australian Government's genetically modified (GM) crop moratorium does not deliver any benefit to the state's farming sector and in fact, is only denying the state's farmers from being more profitable and more environmentally sustainable.

"The report *Analysis of price premiums under the South Australian GM moratorium* is evidence that the GM-crop moratorium serves no purpose to anyone and the removal of the ban would not be any loss to non-GM farmers seeking to establish a premium international market. The report was commissioned by Grain Producers South Australia and the Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia to contribute facts and evidence to a debate that has otherwise been hijacked by political interests and baseless ideologies," CropLife Australia CEO, Matthew Cossey said today.

"The analysis undertaken by Mecardo has compared prices in South Australia to comparable markets in Western Australia and Victoria on a range of agricultural commodities including wheat, canola, barley, wine grapes and cattle. Only GM canola and cotton are federally approved for commercial cultivation in Australia however the analysis has thoroughly examined all agricultural sectors in SA that contribute to the local economy to correct, once and for all, the misinformation and fear-mongering that has been the basis of the GM debate in the state."

"It is clear that in direct comparison with similar markets in Victoria and Western Australia, where both genetically modified and non-GM crops are grown, the ban on GM crops in South Australia does not facilitate any farmer achieving higher prices for any agricultural commodity. It's high time that South Australian politicians stopped playing political football with the livelihoods of their farmers who contribute so much to the state's economy," said Mr Cossey.

"The Mecardo report also found that, not only are SA's farmers not achieving price premiums, but they also don't have the opportunity to experience the benefits of growing safe and approved genetically modified canola."

"Recent independent data by Graham Brookes of UK-based PG Economics has shown that GM crop farmers in Western Australia, Victoria, NSW and Queensland have gained \$1.37 billion worth of extra income and produced an additional 226,000 tonnes of canola that would otherwise have not been produced if conventional seeds had been used. GM traits in cotton and canola have also contributed to a significant reduction in the environmental impact associated with insecticide and herbicide use on the areas devoted to these GM crops in Australia. The state government's baseless ban on GM crops means South Australian farmers continue to miss out on these benefits."

"The long track record of Australian farmers using different agricultural production methods alongside each other reaffirm that all agricultural production methods can and does work to coexist to deliver the best of Australian agriculture. There is no reason for the South Australian government to hold the state's farmers back by preventing them from being able to competitively produce more food, feed and fibre for a growing global population."

"Whatever the result of the state election, the state government must act on the facts and evidence in this report and, in the best interests of the state's farmers and agricultural sector, remove the unnecessary ban on safe and federally approved GM crops," concluded Mr Cossey.

For a copy of the report visit www.abca.com.au

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About CropLife Australia

CropLife Australia (CropLife) is the peak industry organisation representing the agricultural chemical and biotechnology (plant science) sector in Australia. CropLife represents the innovators, developers, manufacturers and formulators of crop protection and agricultural biotechnology products. The plant science industry provides products to protect crops against pests, weeds and diseases, as well as developing crop biotechnologies that are key to the nation's agricultural productivity, sustainability and food security. The plant science industry is worth more than \$17.6 billion a year to the Australian economy and directly employs thousands of people across the country. CropLife and its members are committed to the stewardship of their products throughout their lifecycle and to ensuring that human health, environment and trade issues associated with agricultural chemical use in Australia are responsibly and sustainably managed. Our member companies contribute more than \$13 million a year

to stewardship activities to ensure the safe and effective use of their products. CroLife ensures the responsible use of these products through its mandatory industry code of conduct and has set a benchmark for industry stewardship through programs such as **drumMUSTER**, ChemClear® and Agsafe Accreditation and Training. Our stewardship activities demonstrate our commitment to managing the impacts associated with container waste and unwanted chemicals.

