



MEDIA RELEASE

INDEPENDENT GM REPORT CONFIRMS SA MORATORIUM HAS COST FARMERS

20 FEBRUARY 2019 (Canberra) – CropLife Australia, the national peak industry body for the plant science sector, strongly welcomes today's release of the independent review of the South Australian Genetically Modified Food Crop Moratorium.

Matthew Cossey, Chief Executive Officer of CropLife Australia, commended the Minister Whetstone and the South Australian Government for having policy development guided by facts, data and independent analysis.

Mr Cossey said, "The report's findings confirm that South Australian farmers have been held back by the moratorium, which is estimated to have cost the state's canola industry \$33 million since 2004.

"Evidence provided to the review, and reflected in its findings, is the moratorium delivers no price premium or additional market access and has discouraged investment in public and private research and development. The review also found the cultivation of GM crops would increase productivity and provide environmental benefits for South Australia."

The findings mirror a recent report by independent market analysts Mecardo which provided clear evidence that the South Australian GM crop moratorium has not delivered any benefit to the state's farming sector. It found South Australian farmers had been denied the chance to increase profitability and environmental sustainability by not having access to GM crops.

Mr Cossey continued, "I commend Professor Kym Anderson AC on a thorough report, which acknowledged the strong evidence from the agriculture and science sectors of the benefits and opportunities GM crops could provide for South Australia."

Mr Cossey concluded, "CropLife Australia looks forward to the South Australian Government's response and outlining a path forward for genuine farmer choice in SA."

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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 \$20.6 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 millions of dollars a year to stewardship activities to ensure the safe and effective use of their products. CropLife 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.

