

MEDIA RELEASE

EP Farmers surveyed about market advantage from GM Bill

The councils of the Eyre Peninsula through the EP Local Government Association are asking farmers for their perspective on the recent GM law changes.

In May the State Parliament legislated to lift the moratorium on growing Genetically Modified crops. Within that legislation was an option which gave individual council areas six months to apply to have the moratorium continue within their district, with responsibility of the final decision still being that of the Primary Industries Minister.

This Act allows State Governments to regulate GM food crops where there are risks to markets and trade. For this reason, the Act is limited in its scope and any concerns relating to health or the environment cannot be used as grounds to apply to be a non-GM designated area under the Act.

The decision to lift the GM Moratorium on mainland South Australia follows extensive State Government public consultation and recommendations from an independent review that evaluated the market and trade benefits, or lack thereof, of the GM moratorium to the South Australian economy and agricultural industries.

In line with the amendment, Eyre Peninsula Councils are firstly consulting with persons engaged in primary production activities to get their views on lifting the GM moratorium with regards to any market advantage to staying GM free.

Mayor Sam Telfer, Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association President, said that “The perspectives of our farmers and agricultural businesses are key in this process, to help ensure that any decision made by Councils considers market and trade benefits to our extensive agriculture industry”.

“The short 3-minute survey is being distributed to our farmers and will remain open during June. Each Council will be able to see results relating directly to their districts, and will help provide direction for any further decisions.”

“The survey can be viewed at EPLGA.com.au”

For any further information please contact either the EPLGA President Sam Telfer, or the Executive Officer, Peter Scott.