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Gene Ethics News Media Release - January 25 2008 All supermarkets to match Foodland's GM-free stand

Independent South Australian supermarket chain Foodland has joined Coles to ensure that their home brand products are free of Genetically Manipulated (GM) soy, corn, canola or cottonseed. Both supermarkets are responding to strong customer preferences for GM-free.

"We congratulate both chains on their first steps toward making their shops totally GM-free," says Gene Ethics Director, Bob Phelps.

"The next step for Foodland is to make its many NSW and NT supermarkets GM-free too!

"And both supermarkets need a process for weeding out GM contaminated foods throughout their stores.

"We are not surprised that Foodland's shopper feedback supports their GM-free stance as over 90% of Coles customers also want GM-free.

"We call on Woolworths, Aldi and IGA to join the GM-free trend in their stores too.

"Everyone wants to eat healthy, safe and nutritious foods but scientific evidence shows that some GM foods fail these tests," Mr Phelps says.

"Food Standards Australia NZ does not even consider the results of animal studies, yet there is growing evidence that the health of laboratory animals and their pups are harmed by GM foods.

"GM crops and foods will damage human health, the environment and the economy.

"We have asked all Australian Health Ministers, who will meet next week, to heed the public declaration of support for GM-free foods and farms by Foodland, Coles and hundreds of other Australian food businesses.

"They should also begin the process of fulfilling the Federal government promise to review Food Standard 1.5.2 and require the full labelling of all foods made using Genetic Manipulation technologies and processes," Mr Phelps concludes.