

## **Gene Ethics Media Release**

### **South Australia: GM-free till 2014!**

**Wednesday, March 31, 2010: The South Australian Labor Government has again made clear its unequivocal commitment to extending the present ban on genetically manipulated (GM) crops for this term of government.**

**"We applaud the government for extending the ban on commercial GM crops until 2014 at least and will work with the new Agriculture Minister Michael O'Brien to fully implement the policy," says Gene Ethics Director Bob Phelps.**

"GM-free crops and foods give the South Australian food and wine industry a strong marketing edge. Their promotional campaign will build on the state's clean, green image.

"With GM-free canola in high demand at premium prices both here and in overseas markets, SA will be a winner all round.

"South Australia will have an edge over WA, Vic and NSW which have foolishly embraced herbicide tolerant GM canola that shoppers refuse to buy.

"Our election survey results found detailed government and Greens GM-free policy. They undertook to: 'strictly enforce quarantine laws that prohibit GM seed from entering South Australia and ban the commercial release of other GM organisms until 2014 at least'. This will require vigilance at the border with Victoria and a comprehensive exclusion program should be a priority.

"Most importantly, Labor and the Greens will also: 'increase government funding to develop more sustainable farming systems, including organic and GM-free'.

"There is a really urgent need for this research so that farmers can become less dependent on dwindling reserves of oil and phosphates, and so their input costs do not spiral out of control.

"With global climate change and burgeoning human populations, we must not waste scarce time and resources on old, failed Gene Manipulation techniques that cannot deliver on their wild promises," Mr Phelps concludes.

*Rann Government commits to GM-free:*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/03/06/2838396.htm>

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