



Submission to the 2017 Review of the National Gene Technology Scheme August 2017

The Government of South Australia (SA Government) wishes to thank the Gene Technology Secretariat for the opportunity to provide a submission to the first stage of the consultation process for the 2017 Review of the National Gene Technology Regulatory Scheme (the Scheme).

This submission reflects an SA Government position, developed through the SA Gene Technology Interdepartmental Committee (GT IDC). Public or targeted consultation has not been undertaken outside of the SA GT IDC.

The SA Government supports the governance process of the Scheme in general. Historically, the SA Government has not found any issues with the Scheme as it stands and concludes that the Scheme has worked well to date.

In particular, the SA Government supports the existing provisions for states and territories to have the ability to make decisions about gene technology for trade marketing purposes. The SA Government considers the Scheme to be appropriately agile for states and territories for this reason.

There currently exists a moratorium on genetically modified (GM) food crops in SA i.e. no GM food crops can be grown for commercial purposes. This is legislated under the *SA Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004* and is not in conflict with the Scheme as it only covers trade marketing purposes.

The South Australia moratorium, on the growing of GM food crops, ensures that we maintain our “premium food and wine from our clean environment and exported to the world” market positioning. Market research has demonstrated that the global demand for non GM foods is expanding rapidly and there are price premiums paid to products that can prove non GM status. South Australia’s non GM status provides our agricultural and food businesses with greater market access in countries where there is demand for premium products that are non GM or made with non GM ingredients

As such, the SA Government supports the provisions for states and territories to make decisions about gene technology for trade marketing purposes to be ongoing.

The Scheme also needs to remain agile enough to support important medical and agricultural research while providing adequate protection of health and safety of people and the environment.