

**Grain Growers Limited Policy Position
Genetic Modification Moratorium in SA**

Key Issue	South Australian Moratorium on Genetically Modified (GM) crops and wheat
Background	<p>GM crops are assessed to determine if they are safe for commercial release. Each state and territory can decide whether or not to permit the production of GM crops in part or all of its territory.</p> <p>In 2008 South Australia announced its moratorium on GM crops would be extended for an indefinite amount of time.</p>
Critical Consequences	<p>GM Canola offers an example where competitors increased market share at the cost of Australian producers and the Australian economy. In order to remain competitive Australians increased their uptake of GM cotton. 90% of Australian grown cotton is now genetically engineered.</p> <p>All mainland States of Australia have lifted their moratorium on Genetically modified crops; South Australia has reinstated its moratorium indefinitely.</p> <p>The moratorium on GM crops may discourage future private and industry research investment in South Australia. Further, South Australia may face the loss of genomics located at its key research precincts. Specialists may consider moving interstate or overseas, with a risk of generating “stranded assets” in which the SA government has made considerable investment.</p>
Policy Position	<p>At a minimum, the South Australian Government should provide transparency over science-based criteria that set out the conditions under which the moratorium on genetically modified crops may be lifted.</p> <p>This would create the framework and the necessary steps which would need to be established for the South Australian government to lift the moratorium at a time when they have established it is safe to do so.</p>
Desired Outcome	All State-based policy which relates to crop varieties should be developed on scientific criteria.