



20<sup>th</sup> of June 2016

Hon. Colin Barnett MEd, MLA  
Premier; Minister for Tourism; Science  
1 Parliament Place  
WEST PERTH WA 6005



Dear Premier

The PGA would like to bring to your attention our grave concerns about the repeal of the *GM Crops Free Areas Act 2003*, and the endless filibustering in regard to the repeal of this Act in the Legislative Council.

As a major political party, Labor is showing absolute disregard for agriculture in this state, and especially the many communities in the wheatbelt that will be relying on the repeal of this Act to ensure their future financial well-being is enhanced by the prospect of being able to adopt and adapt innovative GM technologies.

Set against Western Australia's changing weather patterns, GM technology offers the gift of crops that are drought resistant and can mitigate the devastating effects of frost.

GM technology can enhance more efficient uptake of fertilizers by crops, and as has been proven with GM canola, it can reduce unnecessary use of in-crop herbicides.

All these effects of the use of GM technology are environmentally responsible outcomes.

The PGA appeals to you as Premier of Western Australia to bring this matter to the attention of the Legislative Assembly, as we believe that if the Labor Party continues to do their best to obstruct progress of the repeal Bill, it will wind back the agricultural prospects of this state by more than a decade.

Agriculture in the state of Western Australia has always relied upon breakthroughs in technology, ranging from the stump jump plough of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to today's no till farming and modern crop breeding techniques. This includes the planting of GM canola under an exemption from the Act in question.

The PGA understands that similar sentiments as expressed in this letter are shared by WA Farmers.

**Pastoralists & Graziers Association of Western Australia (Inc)**

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Both the PGA and WA Farmers are the acknowledged representatives of agriculture in this state; collectively they represent over 3500 farming families.

We have no hesitation in stating that the industry believes that the repeal of this Act will provide a firm foundation for the future commercial viability of our industry.

These farming families are the backbone of agriculture in Western Australia.

In fact, we have no hesitation in stating that there is not a single rural community in regional Western Australia that is not financially underwritten by our industry.

The PGA once again expresses directly how critical it is, for all the reasons stated above, that this Act is repealed as soon as possible.

Yours Faithfully



Tony Seabrook

President

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Gary McGill

Chairman, PGA Western Grain Growers committee