



TASMANIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY GROUP LTD

GENE TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION SHEET

- TAPG believes that the current level of consumer acceptance and therefore the demand for GM food products is limited. We need to monitor developments in this regard and review our position should this market position change. There appears to be no current market advantage to Tasmania in moving to GM food products. Such a move at the moment would be harmful to our current status as a producer of quality clean green products.
- Tasmania needs to maintain and build on its position as a producer of clean, green, quality products. The use of gene technology in appropriate areas must not threaten this position.
- There are opportunities for GM Technology to provide productivity improvements for Tasmanian agricultural commodities and Tasmania must be able to take advantage of such developments. Research and trials in non food crops should be allowed to proceed under the direction of the Gene Technology Regulator.
- TAPG encourages an objective scientific debate on the merits and impacts of GM Technology. The scientific evidence on the issue needs to be fully understood and presented to the community to allow public understanding of the issues to improve so that a more informed debate can take place.
- A certain level of flexibility is required to ensure that Tasmania industries remain competitive should the uptake of gene technology become more commercially attractive to companies.
- Research trials should be allowed to continue under a strict environment that does not threaten the state's agricultural economy.

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