



Review of the *Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Act 2003*

Invitation to make a submission

The *Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Act 2003* came into operation on 24 December 2003. As the Act has now been operating for more than five years, a review of its operation and effectiveness has to be carried out under section 19 of the Act. A report on the review must be tabled in both Houses of the Western Australian Parliament by 24 December 2009.

The Minister for Agriculture and Food Terry Redman MLA has appointed Mr Greg Calcutt AM SC to undertake the review and prepare the report.

The *Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Act 2003* states that its purpose is: “to prohibit the cultivation of certain genetically modified crops in designated areas of the State and to provide for their destruction in certain cases.” Interested persons and organisations are invited to make submissions to the review about:

- The need for the Act – i.e. is the purpose of the Act still appropriate? If so, do the current provisions of the Act provide the best way of achieving the purpose or are there alternatives?
- The operation of the Act
- The effectiveness of the Act
- The orders made under the Act prohibiting the cultivation of GM crops and granting exemptions from that prohibition.

A background paper is available from the Department of Agriculture and Food. Email gmcrops@agric.wa.gov.au, telephone (08) 9368 3327 or 9368 3530 or download from the Department’s website (www.agric.wa.gov.au/ under Hot Topics).

Please note that the review is NOT a general inquiry into gene technology and genetically modified organisms. The background paper refers to specific issues that are beyond the scope of the review, e.g. safety and labelling of genetically modified food, legal liability, the use of pesticides, intellectual property in genetically modified crops and the role of multinationals in the development and use of genetically modified crops.

Submissions should be no longer than 10 single-sided pages. A submission which is not legible or has a font size of less than 11 pt will not be considered. All submissions, including the name and address of the submitting person/organisation will be placed on the Department of Agriculture and Food’s website for public information.

A copy of the *Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Act 2003* is available to download from [here](#). A link to the *Western Australian Government Gazette* which contains the orders issued under the *Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Act 2003* is [here](#).

Submissions are required by close of business on 14 August 2009. Email submissions are preferred to the gmcropsreview@agric.wa.gov.au mailbox. Alternatively, send hard copy submissions to:

Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Act Review
Department of Agriculture and Food
Locked Bag 4
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

16 July 2009