



3 September 2019

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

## Boosting Tasmania's GMO free brand

Tasmania's moratorium on GMOs took another step forward today with the tabling in Parliament of the *Genetically Modified Organisms Control Bill 2019*.

The Bill provides a ten-year extension to the moratorium on GMOs in Tasmania to strengthen our brand and offer a marketing advantage for our primary industries.

In a further boost for exporters that rely on our GMO-free status to access premium markets, the Government will also regulate the use of SDN-1 modified organisms in Tasmania.

This will maintain the status quo and provide a clear and consistent message in the market place for those Tasmanian businesses and industries that rely on Tasmania's GMO-free status.

From October 2019, under the National Gene Technology Scheme, organisms modified using a gene editing technique known as SDN-1 will no longer be regulated as GMOs on the basis that organisms modified using this technique pose the same risk as, and are indistinguishable from, organisms carrying naturally-occurring mutations.

This national decision does not prevent Tasmania having a moratorium on GMOs, however it may create issues for businesses that export to markets where SDN-1 modified organisms continue to be considered or regulated as GMOs.

In consultation with stakeholders, a Regulation will be made under the *Gene Technology (Tasmania) Act 2012*, to ensure that SDN-1 modified organisms are regulated as GMOs in the Tasmanian agri-food sector for marketing purposes.

We are also committed to working with farmers, exporters and industry to address any potential market or brand implications if they arise.

Tasmania's GMO-free status is a key component in the Hodgman majority Liberal Government's goal to grow the annual value of our agricultural sector to \$10 billion by 2050.

The updated *Tasmanian Gene Technology Policy and Guidelines*, which provide the necessary detail on how the moratorium will be implemented, were also released today, and are available from the DPIPWE website: [www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au)