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TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water
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Public comment sought on new biosecurity (SDN-1 Modified Organism) regulations

Tasmanians are being encouraged to have their say on draft regulations that cover organisms modified using a gene editing technique known as SDN-1.

As of October 2019, organisms modified using SDN-1 are no longer regulated as genetically modified organisms (GMOs), under the National Gene Technology Scheme.

Tasmania's 10-year moratorium on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) remains in place and is an important part of our brand, offering a marketing advantage for our high quality, high value primary industries.

To address any potential concerns in markets where SDN-1 modified organisms continue to be considered GMOs, the Tasmanian Government has developed regulations to control the entry and commercial release of SDN-1 modified organisms into the Tasmanian environment.

This will ensure that these organisms are effectively regulated the same as GMOs in the agri-food sector for marketing purposes, as outlined in the *Tasmanian Gene Technology Policy 2019-2029*.

This is a cautious approach designed to provide protection for Tasmanian businesses that supply markets where SDN-1 organism continue to be regulated as GMOs.

Importantly, the draft regulations will maintain the status quo for businesses that rely on Tasmania's GMO-free status and ensure that Tasmania continues to be able to confidently trade as GMO-free in markets that are sensitive to SDN-1 modified organisms.

Submissions close on 29 January 2021 and I encourage anyone interested to make a submission.

Submissions can be either emailed to sdn1regulations@dpipwe.tas.gov.au or posted to:

SDN-1 Regulations
Agriculture and Water Division
GPO Box 44
Hobart, TAS 7001

The draft regulation and fact sheet can be found at: <https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/sdn-1>