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MEDIA RELEASE



SOUTHERN MALLEE TO CONSIDER GM CROP OPTIONS

Southern Mallee farmers, food producers and the wider community are being called on to have their say on whether the district should allow the production of genetically modified (GM) crops.

The Southern Mallee District Council wants public feedback to help it decide if it should apply to remain a GM crop free district, under the State Government's *Genetically Modified Crops Management (Designated Area) Amendment Act 2020*.

The consultation follows the State Government's decision in May 2020 to lift the moratorium on the production of GM crops in SA. Under the new legislation, each individual Council area in the State can apply to the Minister for Primary Industries to be a designated non-GM area, with the final decision to be made by the Minister.

Southern Mallee Mayor Andrew Grieger said Council wanted to hear from the industries likely to be most affected before making its decision.

"We strongly encourage our community to have their say during this consultation process – your feedback will help us decide our district's future in this area," Mayor Grieger says.

"GM crop production is an issue that has traditionally attracted a wide range of views. As a result, we want to ensure that everyone's opinions are heard on this matter."

Council will consider the public consultation feedback before it makes its decision on whether or not to apply to remain a non-GM dedicated area. If Council does submit an application, the State Government has the power to decide whether or not to designate the Southern Mallee District Council as a non-GM crop area.

Consultation begins on 26 August (today) and concludes on 16 September. To find out more or to have your say visit www.southernmallee.sa.gov.au.

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