

MID MURRAY COUNCIL INVITES COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON GM CROPS DECISION

Mid Murray Council is inviting community members and key stakeholders to provide feedback on whether Council should become a non-Genetically Modified (GM) Crop Area, with its [online survey](#) now open.

In line with all South Australian Councils, Mid Murray Council is calling on its community, particularly those engaged in primary production activities and food processing or manufacturing activities, to share concerns and feedback relating to this before a decision is made on whether to apply to be a non-GM designated area or not.

This follows the State Government's recent *Genetically Modified Crops Management (Designated Area) Amendment Act 2020* passing, and follows on from the previous moratorium regarding GM crop production in South Australia, which was designated back in 2004 (and stated that no genetically modified food crops may be cultivated in the State).

Now, 16 years on, bipartisan support for GM Crops in the State means the moratorium will be lifted, and GM food crops may be grown here (with the exception of Kangaroo Island). However, under the Act, individual Councils have the opportunity to apply to be a non-GM designated area.

Consultation began with key industry leaders earlier this month, and the wider [public consultation survey](#) is available on Council's website from today.

Mayor Dave Burgess said Council wanted to ensure that any decision from Council on this issue, was led by those people and industries it impacted most.

"The issue of GM crop production has been a contentious one on a global scale, but now as we face challenging economic circumstances, we welcome the opportunity to consider whether or not the relaxation of these conditions could benefit our community," Mayor Burgess says.

"Farming is a vital industry for our region and contributes significantly to local jobs, family wellbeing and the regional economy.

"It's important all voices are heard in order for Council to make an educated decision, so we look forward to hearing from these community stakeholders."

Following public consultation, Council will consider the views of the community and make a decision as to whether or not it applies to remain a non-GM dedicated area, before 15 November 2020. If an application is submitted, the State Government will determine whether or not to designate the Mid Murray area as a non-GM crop area.

Those wishing to provide feedback on the matter, should fill in the online survey via the Council website, (www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/community/public-consultation) before 5pm Wednesday, 19 August 2020.

Council will provide further updates and details to the public once consultation is complete. Anyone wishing to speak with someone directly on the issue, can contact the Council (08) 8569 0100.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

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