

EDDIE HUGHES MP
Shadow Minister for Primary Industries and Regional
Development

Friday, 14 September 2018

Labor supports move to review GM moratorium

Labor supports a decision to review South Australia's genetically modified crop moratorium – which is in place to 2025.

Shadow Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Eddie Hughes said the independent review should focus on the economic impact of lifting the moratorium.

Mr Hughes said policy should be guided by the best available evidence – both scientific and economic and the Marshall Government must reinvest in public research and development, in order to help our primary producers to thrive.

The Liberals' Budget cut more than \$35 million from PIRSA and there was no tangible support for drought affected farmers.

In 2016/17, under the former Labor Government, gross food and wine revenue reached a record \$19.97 billion.

Quotes attributable to Shadow Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Eddie Hughes

I want to ensure that South Australia's agriculture industry continues to grow and it is therefore wise to consider all options that will help the bottom line in the industry.

Before any decisions are made it is imperative that we hear submissions from farmers and other relevant parties in relation to their views on whether South Australia should be allowed to have GM food crops.

There are some very important key issues that need to be explored – such as whether GM and non-GM crops can co-exist and whether South Australia should have an exclusion zone.

We also need to examine the financial benefits of our current non-GM status and to what degree we receive a premium – whether that be locally, interstate or internationally.