

Comments from the Victorian Departments of Environment and Primary Industries and Health

Due date of submission – 31 January 2014

The Victorian Departments of Environment and Primary Industries and Health (the Departments) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on Application A1089.

Application A1089 seeks permission for the sale and use of food derived from canola line DP-073496-4 which has been genetically modified (GM) to confer tolerance to the broad spectrum herbicide, glyphosate.

From the FSANZ assessment report it is understood that:

- Canola line 73496 is a new crop designed to provide growers, wherever canola is grown around the world, with an alternative to existing weed management strategies;
- The Applicant intends to commercially cultivate the crop in Canada (cultivation approved 2012), North America (approval pending) and Australia;
- The major food derived from Canola is refined oil, which, as it would be unlikely to contain any novel protein or DNA, would not require GM labelling. Other foods include whole seeds and meal, which would require GM labelling; and
- The approval of Application A1089 would permit food derived from this GM canola to enter the Australian and New Zealand markets.

The Departments have been informed that the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) approved the cultivation of Canola Line DP-073496-4 for field trials (not commercial cultivation) in Australia from May 2012 to February 2016.

The Departments acknowledge that no toxicity, allergenicity or nutrient composition concerns were raised by FSANZ in its safety assessment of this Application.

On this basis, the Departments support the progression of Application A1089.