

28 January 2022

Food Standards Australia and New Zealand

Email: submissions@foodstandards.gov.au



Grain Producers SA Ltd

To whom it may concern,

RE: GPSA Submission on food derived from drought-tolerant and herbicide-tolerant wheat line IND-00412-7

On behalf of Grain Producers SA (GPSA), I write to support the application to Food Standards Australia and New Zealand by Trigall Genetics to permit food derived from HB4 wheat.

Grain Producers SA ('GPSA') is the peak industry body for South Australian grain growers. GPSA is non-political and represents producers to government, the community and industry, including grain marketers, exporters, storage and handlers, researchers and farm input suppliers. We develop and implement policies and projects that promote the economic and environmental sustainability of South Australian grain growing businesses.

We welcome the opportunity to provide feedback to Food Standards Australian New Zealand ('FSANZ') on food derived from drought-tolerant and herbicide-tolerant wheat line IND-00412-7 ('HB4 wheat').

South Australian growers plant more than four million hectares of cereals, pulses, and oilseeds annually. The state produces an average of eight million tonnes of grain each year, which contributes more than \$4 billion to Australia's gross food revenue.

GPSA support access to technology which improves the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of the grains industry.

The South Australian Grain Industry Blueprint sets a vision to be a \$6 billion industry by 2030. To achieve this, the state's grain sector must improve access to technology and genetic material which enables sustainable production and allow producers the freedom to select the best cropping varieties for their individual farming system.

GPSA support genetic research to combat the greatest environmental risks to production, including heat, drought, frost and salinity tolerance. Further, GPSA support genetic technology which will allow a reduction in chemical and fertiliser use.

Genetically Modified plant varieties have the potential to increase sustainability and profitability, by reducing the impact of environmental stressors and increasing aspects such as yield potential and nutritional value. GPSA understands that HB4 wheat is supported to have an increased tolerance to drought and the herbicide glufosinate.



We support modern plant breeding methods which achieve these targets and recognise the importance of ensuring that such technologies are appropriately tested and considered by scientific bodies and regulatory agencies to ensure safe food supply.

Investment into the South Australian grain industry is important to continue driving growth and if this application is approved, food made from this type of GM wheat could be imported into Australia in products including flour, bread, pasta and biscuits

GPSA note that the safety assessment (Application A1232, Supporting document 1) concluded that “no potential public health and safety concerns have been identified in the assessment of drought-tolerant and herbicide-tolerant wheat line IND-00412-7,” and that “...food derived from IND-00412-7 is considered to be as safe for human consumption as food derived from non-GM wheat cultivars.”

As such, GPSA supports the application by Trigall Genetics to permit food derived from HB4 wheat. This application represents an important opportunity to portray accurate food safety information around genetic technology.

We look forward to South Australian growers having access to similar technologies and wheat varieties in the future.

If you have any queries, or seek further comment from GPSA, please don't hesitate to contact me on 1300 734 884.

Yours sincerely,

