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Contentious: Tony Burke

Burke backs GM

OVERCOMING future world food shortages will require “every possible path of scientific research,” Federal Agriculture Minister Tony Burke said, as he backed contentious genetically modified food.

On World Food Day, October 16, the Federal Government warned the world won’t be able to sustain population growth, projected to hit 9.1 billion by 2050, based on present food production.

The days of people closing their minds to biotechnology and food production were numbered, Mr Burke said in a statement.

“I don’t see how anyone can mount a moral argument against genetically modified food when we’re facing these sorts of projections on global hunger,” Mr Burke argued. He said GM technology won’t be the only answer.

“But we need to give farmers every possible tool, given the gravity of the challenge.”

Two-thirds of our food is exported to nations including Asian countries, the US and the UK.