



## Border Watch (Mt Gambier)

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# Editorial

THE South Australian Government should move to lift its ban on genetically modified crops

The news that Bayer wants to extend a research trial in the South East should be a catalyst for the government to act in a policy sense before the election.

If it doesn't, South Australia will fall behind other states as a place to grow, produce and invest.

Victoria and New South Wales allow GM production, while Western Australia is relaxing restrictions under its new government and pressing ahead with commercial trials.

Legitimate concerns have previously been raised about possible health effects and the risk of new plants becoming weeds, but these have been adequately addressed in numerous trials.

According to a South Australian Government website: "The benefits of genetically modified food crops include being able to breed disease resistant crops and herbicide tolerant strains. Genetically modified crops can also be made to include vitamins that may be lacking in some staple varieties."

This isn't a claim, it's a fact.

Science is providing tools that potentially enable farmers to produce crops successfully in lower rainfall areas that are more weed resistant and of higher nutritional value.

A story in the Victorian press last week revealed "super broccoli" that's being produced in specialist market gardens, containing more vitamins and nutrients that benefit human health.

Science may provide hope for growers in the Upper South East to maintain yields in the face of climate change.

The looming state election is an opportunity for informed debate and new policies.

MICHAEL GOREY