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# GM canola can be managed

AT a media event in Mt Barker last week, Minister for Agriculture and Food Terry Redman released the locations of the 20 sites where GM canola will be grown for the 2009/10 season. This follows the Government's announcement in December last year, allowing a limited commercial release of GM canola for the coming harvest.

The chosen sites will collectively see about 854ha allocated to grow GM canola and, provided weather conditions are reasonable throughout the season, the trial is expected to produce close to 2000 tonnes of GM canola.

While we're still working with Monsanto to finalise a lot of the detail in regards to sampling and testing GM and non-GM grain, the CBH Group has nominated two drop-off sites likely to receive deliveries of GM canola this harvest.

At this stage, those sites are Mt Kokeby and the Metro Grain Centre (MGC) in Forrestfield, but this is subject to change should conditions warrant it. These sites have been chosen due to their location and their position in the supply chain, as well as their suitability in providing an adequate reflection of the CBH Group's ability to successfully segregate GM canola.

Both sites have the facilities to cater for receiving and storing other grains, however, at this stage it is far too early in the season to establish what segregations and services, other than GM canola, will be available at these sites. Obviously though, if you consider the size and out-turn arrangements of MGC, the GM canola service could form one of more than 40 segregations handled at MGC this coming harvest.

While the CBH Group is far removed from any debate over the introduction of GM products, it is our role to respond to market signals and industry requirements for GM grain. Therefore, following the decision to allow for a commercial release this harvest, it is our responsibility to ensure that GM canola grown here in WA is received, stored and handled in such a way that it can be kept separate from all other grains the entire way along the supply chain.

This is an element of our business that we've been successfully managing for more than 76 years and so for us, it is business as usual. GM canola, like any other grain, can be managed as a completely separate product right through from the farmgate to the marketplace.