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Agriculture Minister Terry Redman, left, and Matthew Mews, CBH senior supply chain quality manager at the Metro Grain Centre, watch the first load of genetically modified canola delivered to the terminal this week.

CBH has assured farmers and the community that strict segregation guidelines will be followed after the bulk handler received its first delivery of genetically modified canola this week.

CBH senior supply chain quality manager Matthew Mews said the company would thoroughly clean its internal supply chains after each load of GM canola to avoid contaminating non-GM canola.

“With GM canola we will be paying particular attention after loading to ensure cleanliness,” he said this week.

“It will then be placed in a secure silo. CBH has a proven track record of segregating grain, especially grain that is bound for a niche market, such

as organic grain.”

Network of Concerned Farmers spokeswoman Julie Newman said there was no liability in place for non-GM growers, should cross-contamination occur.

She is deeply concerned that WA could lose long-established markets after mixing of GM with non-GM.

Agriculture Minister Terry Redman was at the Metro Grain Centre on Monday to observe delivery of about 10 tonnes of GM canola grown at a Department of Agriculture and Food research site near Geraldton.

“Today is another step in what has been a very sensible process,” he said.

Mr Redman said the State Government would await the outcome of an independent report into this season’s

trials before deciding to open the floodgates on GM canola for the 2010-11 season.

As the trials are harvested, debate is raging over a review of WA laws banning widespread use of GM technology.

Farm groups have called for the GM Crops Free Areas Act to be repealed in the interests of future scientific advances. GM supporters such as Cunderdin’s John Snooke argue that if GM canola could only be farmed with an exemption order it would stifle investment in other technologies such as GM frost tolerant wheat.

But Mr Redman said if GM canola was grown in WA next year it would be under an exemption order.