

FACT SHEET

Genetically Modified Organisms Control Amendment Bill 2019

The *Genetically Modified Organisms Control Amendment Bill 2019* (the Bill) will extend the operation of the *Genetically Modified Organisms Control Act 2004* (the Act) for a further ten years.

The Act provides for the whole or any part of Tasmania to be declared to be a Genetically Modified Organism (GMO)-Free Area for the purpose of preserving the identity of non-genetically modified (GM) crops and animals for marketing purposes, and for persons to be allowed to deal with GMOs under permits.

Section 36 of the Act currently specifies that the Act will expire 15 years after it commences, which will be in November 2019. Through a simple amendment of this expiration period from 15 years to 25 years, this Bill will extend the expiry date of the Act, and hence the current moratorium on the release of GMOs to the Tasmanian environment, from November 2019 to November 2029.

The details that underpin the operation of the Act are set out in the *Tasmanian Gene Technology Policy 2019-2029* (the Policy) and *Tasmanian Gene Technology Guidelines* (the Guidelines). The updated Policy specifies, among other actions, that DPIPWE will undertake regular evidence-based monitoring and review to assess developments in gene technology, consumer sentiment and market implications during the period of the moratorium.

DPIPWE will also provide a report to the Minister at least every three years on developments in these areas. The Minister can also direct a review at any time during the period of the moratorium, should developments warrant it.