



Peter Treloar MP

Member for Flinders

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GM crops allowed on mainland SA

Eyre Peninsula growers will have the opportunity to access the latest breeding technology from 2021, as the Genetically Modified Bill is set to pass State Parliament this week.

After 16 years, the GM moratorium will be lifted on mainland SA, after the Marshall State Government reached an agreement with the Opposition.

The amendments include giving Councils the ability to apply to remain a GM-free area, if the community chooses, with the final decision resting with the Minister for Primary Industries.

Member for Flinders Peter Treloar said while the amendments may have been a compromise, he expects many Councils across the broadacre farming areas of SA will be pleased to give their farming ratepayers the choice.

“I have seen incredible change and evolution in farming systems over the past 40 years, and this is another one,” he said.

“I was pleased to contribute to the Parliamentary debate, I had indeed lost count of the number of times I have spoken about this issue in the State Parliament over the years.”

The decision to lift the moratorium was made following an independent review, consisting of independent expert, industry and community consultation, including the recommendations of the GM Crop Advisory Committee.

The review found the so-called price premiums for being GM-free were a myth, and the moratorium had cost SA grain growers at least \$33 million since 2004.

“It is great news for our farmers and regional communities, who for a long time have been calling for the opportunity to have a choice,” Mr Treloar said.