



Bob Phelps  
Executive Director  
PO Box 400  
Emerald VIC 3782

Dear Mr Phelps,

Thank you for your email about genetically modified organisms and food.

In Australia, genetically modified (GM) foods, like all foods, are regulated by the Food Standards Code. The development and environmental release of GM organisms is overseen by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) under the *Gene Technology Act*.

Labelling of GM foods is mandatory under Standard 1.5.2 – Food produced using Gene Technology, in the Food Standards Code. GM foods, ingredients, additives, or processing aids that contain novel DNA or protein must be labelled with the words ‘genetically modified’.

Labelling is also required when genetic modification results in an altered characteristic in a food. For example, soy beans with changed nutritional characteristics such as an increase in their oleic acid content.

GM foods must also be approved – including undergoing a food safety assessment – before they can be marketed.

The current regulatory framework strikes a balance between protecting Australian consumers and allowing for food industry innovation with appropriate safeguards.

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Labor has no plans to change the existing framework for the approval, regulation and labelling of GM foods and other organisms.

Thank you for taking the time to write to us.

Kind regards,

Cecelia

**ALP Information Services Unit**

**Australian Labor Campaign Headquarters**

[www.alp.org.au](http://www.alp.org.au)



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Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton, ACT, 2600

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