

28<sup>th</sup> March 2017

# “The Policy and Legislation of Genetically Modified Organisms”



Caroline Brown

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Held at the Har Wee Yee Restaurant, 302 Elizabeth Street, North Hobart TAS 7000

The Tasmanian Division held its third dinner meeting Hobart and was attended by 12 people. Attendees enjoyed great food and relished the opportunity to network.

Caroline Brown talked about the history of the Genetic Modification (GM) policy in Australia and Tasmania. Since the late 90's the Federal Government had recognised the development and consequences of the technology. The Tasmanian Government and interested parties realised GM technology may place Tasmania's Green and Clean marketing image at risk. In the year 2000 a moratorium was put in place whilst the Government continued its investigation. In 2001 the first Gene Technology policy was developed and implemented in Tasmania. The Genetically Modified Organism Control Act was enacted in 2004 and under that Act the State of Tasmania was declared a GMO-free area for primary industries. Since then there has been a range of government reviews of the GMO policy reviewing gene technologies in the primary industries. As a result the market-based moratorium was extended through to 2019.

Currently the Federal and State Government are reviewing the technology as new generations of GMO's and techniques of gene manipulation are being developed with a range of benefits to human health and primary industries. Also taken into consideration is consumer sentiment and potential future markets.

