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## 2014 ELECTION

Part 3: Big challenges in SE: Mount Gambier, MacKillop p6-7



# OPEN YOUR MIND

## US prof says GE livestock can provide food security

By CARLA WIESE-SMITH

**T**HE United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation says the world needs to double its food production in order to feed a projected 9 billion people in 2050.

And a US professor says genetically engineered livestock will be needed to meet that demand.

"I do not believe we can feed the world without using it," he said.

According to University of California's James Murray, "we have to be incredibly more efficient and do it in a way where we don't degrade the environment for the next generation".

He said policy was a large barrier to getting the work under way because of "misinformation", which made people wary of GE technologies.

"The cost, at the end of the day, is national security, and I've never heard a politician talk about that," Prof Murray said.

"Maybe there's only three transgenic animals which are going to be useful and make a difference in 2050, but we need those three and if we don't make them, we're going to be in trouble."

He said there were no safety reasons to stop transgenic livestock being approved for use.

"We don't chemically define food, but now with genetic engineering, people want to chemically define it," he said.

GE livestock all contained DNA for the transgene, but DNA – the hereditary material in most living organisms – was something people ate every time they had a meal.

"The point is, if you're just eating DNA, it doesn't matter," Prof Murray said.

"Now if you're going to talk about a toxin or an allergen, it's not the DNA, it's the product of the DNA, which would be the protein.

"Everybody agrees eating DNA is safe because you eat DNA every day of your life."

■ Full story p8



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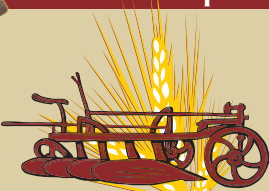
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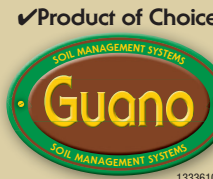
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