

June 20, 2007

## UDV members cast their vote on GM

United Dairyfarmers of Victoria members have made their decision on the organisation's policy on Genetic Modification.

Almost 200 delegates to yesterday's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual UDV Conference have voted for a pro-choice future for GM in the dairy industry.

A resolution on GM has been on the table since the 2006 UDV Conference – that the UDV support choice of GM technology in the dairy industry.

An amendment to that motion was put and carried at the Conference, "that the UDV adopt the draft ADIC GM technology policy as its official policy whilst recognising the marketing requirements of the dairy industry."

Members debated the motion for almost an hour, and it was carried by an overwhelming majority.

UDV Central Councillor Max Jelbart said after waiting since the 2006 Conference to continue the debate, he was pleased that members had decided on a pro-choice policy.

"With the State Government's moratorium on GM due to expire February 2008, it was crucial that UDV members decided their position on GM at this conference," Mr Jelbart said.

Mr Jelbart said alarmist statements that milk would be contaminated by GM were unfounded, with credible scientific research proving that any genetically modified plant material was broken down in the animals' digestive system, and is not present in milk.

He said the motion adopted by UDV members at conference takes into account the importance of markets and recognises the role of the factories in determining their own marketing requirements.

### Media Contact

UDV Communications Adviser Emily Bogue 0400 934 277

UDV Central Councillor Max Jelbart 0428 314 312



The 2007 UDV Conference is sponsored by Murray Goulburn.