

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 27

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

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I am writing this letter to the Gene Manipulated (GM) Canola Moratorium Review as I wish to add my voice to those expressing concern about the lifting of the GM ban. The reasons why I feel Australia should continue the moratorium on the growing of GM canola are as follows:

- There is a positive consumer response to GM free food products not only within Australia but also around the world. If it keeps the ban on growing GM canola, Australia is in a good position to supply this market. And, if not, Australia will lose this market and its reputation for "clean, green and safe" agriculture.
- Because there is, and will continue to be, a market demand for non GM canola, producing GM canola will result in the need for identification and segregation of non GM and GM canola (throughout the growing, storing, transporting, marketing and selling process). This process, plus any "clean up" (both actual and within the marketing of canola) as result of any natural or human error cross contaminations, will incur added costs to the industry.
- If the introduction of GM canola follows the same path as in the USA, farmers can be at risk of litigation if their crops are contaminated by GM canola.
- Farmers and the general public (ie councils, park authorities, land care groups, gardeners etc) would be up for the additional cost, both in money and environmental implications, of the introduction of new herbicides to deal with the herbicide tolerant weeds (which GM canola is defined as when it becomes established outside of its designated growing area) or that are created when GM canola crosses with other plants (eg wild radish, turnip, charlock, ryegrass, barnyard grass). The potential cost is also likely to be significant given that we will be a captive market with Bayer and Monsanto having a monopoly ownership of the chemicals required to manage this weed control.

I believe extending the commercial GM canola ban until 2013 would allow time for the results of the impact and implications of current GM canola (at present contained to the USA and Canada) production to be fully evaluated, analysed and presented to the scientific and global community. Fully identifying the economic impact and implications can only be done over an extended period of time.

Before taking the irreversible step of introducing the growing of GM canola into Australia, Australia needs to verify, *for itself*, that such an action is not going to result in the reduction of the non GM market opportunities that Australia currently enjoys; the loss of economic self direction and autonomy because of market monopolies and any additional costs to both the consumers and growers through any potential environmental and health problems that may as yet not be fully realised.

I am grateful for this opportunity to express my concerns and look forward to following the review.

Yours Sincerely
Andrea Buckley
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