

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 179

Name of Individual/Organisation: Stawell Friends of the Earth

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

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Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

(not for publication)

Please complete this cover sheet and include with your submission to:

/By Mail to:/

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Submission to Review on GM Canola Moratorium.

By Rosalind Byass. Convenor Stawell Friends of the Earth

One of my concerns with lifting the moratorium on GM Canola is that production of canola will accelerate, at the expense of more nutritious crops.

The use of roundup ready crops will lessen the health of the soil, both by loss of organic material and unusable runoff; thus losing the advantage of planting Canola in the first place.

The separation of 'Health and Environment' concerns from 'Trade and Economics' reflects the dysfunctional nature of our Governments [Federal and State] sharing responsibilities. When deliberating on this review it is necessary to accept responsibility for outcomes of the decision for the long-term future.

Please consider these points:

- * It is now widely accepted that Climate Change as a result of human activity is a reality. All new developments should be made to reverse this trend.
- * Research into farming practice that will contribute to the health of humankind and the environment should be prioritized.
- * Research into cash crops that are not actually contributing to the health status of humankind should be shelved.
- * It needs to be accepted that exponential financial growth is not solving the long term problems we have to face globally and nationally.
- * Economic benefits for Victoria of a GM canola crop can be short term only.
- * The economic impact of lifting the moratorium will inevitably commit Victoria to farming practice that will lock us in to Corporation dominated American models. This is not necessarily bad if other controls are put in place, such as the DPI maintaining real monitoring and enforcement control. However please look at the dairy industry [similar assurances were given prior to its deregulation] so many small farmers have had their livelihood ruined and I ask for whose benefit? It is sad to be in the position where one can only say "I told you so".
- * There is a significant embracing of organic, biodynamic, and sound farming practice in the wider farming community, leading hopefully to rehabilitation of the environment. If this is supported appropriately by Government initiative, it could lead to a sound farming environment, better health and consequently sound economic security for most: not simply wealth for the corporation's

shareholders.

Continuing the moratorium will give opportunity for sound practice to be developed, it is a good trend which will be lost if the shareholders profit is the first priority. Other more socially and environmentally beneficial research could be put into such areas as producing ethanol from blue green algae, on otherwise useless degraded land like salt pans.
Rosalind Byass.

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