

Submission Cover Sheet

# Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

**Submission Number:** 180

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**Date Received:** 17 August 2007

**Number of Pages:** 2

**Attachments Submitted with this Submission:**

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**No confidential information is contained in this submission**

**Review Panel Secretariat**

I am registering my strong opposition to the lifting of the moratorium on GM Canola.

I live in a rural area and therefore am very aware of the real concerns of our local farmers. It seems unbelievable that the Victorian government would bow to the pressure of agribusiness companies like Monsanto and Bayer and put at risk the livelihood and future of food supplies for the very people they are elected to serve.

The body of now overwhelming and indisputable research from respected organizations both nationally and internationally shows that GM technology does not create greater crop yields, the main argument for the introduction of GM crops. Additionally, research has also shown adverse health effects in animals.

Perhaps the most basic and sobering of research findings for me is that bees are dying away from their hives in the US where 40 per cent of cornfields are planted with insect resistant GM crops. Scientists believe the pollen from this genetically manipulated corn is responsible. **Without bees we have a biological disaster.** The US is importing Queen bees from Australia to help with the situation. What does that tell us?

Without this ban, farmers using non-GM canola will find their crops destroyed by GM pollen contamination. I, like other consumers, will no longer have the right to eat non-GM foods. The US and Canada have already learnt this lesson and have suffered financially and environmentally.

Does this mean that the Victorian government is being deliberately foolhardy to consider this dangerous technology - or even more frightening, that it is not sufficiently informed?

It makes current debates on water or use of nuclear power pale into insignificance when our whole food supply is under threat.

I find it hard to believe that the Victorian government would even consider lifting the ban and

urge it to retain the current moratorium.

Monica Rapley