

Submission Cover Sheet

# Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

**Submission Number:** 183

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**Date Received:** 17 August 2007

**Number of Pages:** 1

**Attachments Submitted with this Submission:**

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(03) 9658 4874 or (03) 9658 4871

17 August 2007

GM Canola Review Panel Secretariat  
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Dear Panel Members

### REVIEW OF THE MORATORIUM ON GM CANOLA

I am writing to support an extension of the current moratorium on the commercial cultivation of GM Canola in Victoria.

Although I understand your terms of reference are limited to considering the economic impacts of extending or not renewing the current moratorium, in my view the economic losses or benefits are inextricably linked with the potential health and environmental impacts of GM crops.

My research of this issue has convinced me that there is currently insufficient scientific evidence available to prove that the consumption of GM crops is safe for humans or animals.

As a Parliamentarian, many of my constituents have expressed their opposition to consuming GM food or meat-products raised on GM feed. The fact that consumers are unknowingly eating GM canola in Australia is being used as an argument for ending this moratorium. This is not a product of consumer acceptance but is a result of inadequate food labelling requirements.

Australian consumers deserve to make an informed choice about the food that they consume. GM food takes away that choice because the cultivation of GM crops will potentially contaminate non-GM crops in neighbouring areas.

Polling of Australian, European and Japanese consumers shows that they oppose GM foods. If consumers do not want it, then there is no market, here or overseas. They simply will not purchase what they perceive to be unsafe or damaging to their families and future generations.

The fact that Canadian and United States GM farmers of corn, canola and soy have lost export markets to Australian non-GM farmers demonstrates that we have a current market advantage that we risk losing if we go the same way as them. The impact on Australia's trading position could be significantly damaged by losing its "clean/green" reputation to Europe.

There are still too many unanswered questions about the health and environmental impacts of GM crops to allow commercial cultivation to proceed.

Yours faithfully

  
**Jenny Mikakos MP**  
**Member for Northern Metropolitan Region**