

Submission Cover Sheet

# Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

**Submission Number: 184**

**Name of Individual/Organisation: Dairy Australia**

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**Attachments Submitted with this Submission:**

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(03) 9658 4874 or (03) 9658 4871



DAIRY AUSTRALIA

Delivering for the dairy industry

16<sup>th</sup> August 2007

Sir Gustav Nossal OBE  
Chairman GM Canola Review Panel  
C/- Dr Robert Sward  
GM Canola Review Panel Secretariat  
Department of Primary Industries  
GPO Box 4440  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Sir Gustav

### Dairy Australia Submission to GM Canola Review

Dairy Australia is the dairy industry's owned service company limited by guarantee, whose members are dairy farmers and industry bodies, including the Australian Dairy Products Federation (ADPF) and the Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF). Each year, Dairy Australia invests about \$35 million of dairy farmer levy payments and \$15 million of taxpayer funds in projects for the benefit of farmers, the dairy industry and community.

Our activities help the Australian dairy industry – one of the country's most important food and export industries – be innovative, sustainable and internationally competitive. Dairy Australia provides technical expertise and essential services across the whole dairy chain, from pre-farm and farm activities, through manufacturing to end products. This includes programs in research and development and on-farm extension; information collection, analysis and dissemination; issues management; national marketing; and international trade development.

Dairy Australia supports the position on GM technology developed by the dairy industry which is described fully in the Australian Dairy Industry Council submission to the GM Canola Review. Provided that the outputs of GM technology have been thoroughly assessed on a case-by-case basis and approved for human, animal and environmental safety under the national regulatory framework, the dairy industry should have the opportunity and choice for researching, testing and potentially using GM plants in the future.

The moratorium on growing commercial GM canola in Victoria has been a disincentive for investment in GM technologies. This has retarded the development of GM related research and its application to resolve some of the major production and environmental challenges which threaten Australian agriculture which impact directly on the dairy industry.

As the industry body charged with delivering sustainable development, Dairy Australia believes the industry needs to be able to access innovative technologies to retain its relative competitiveness in global dairy markets.

Dairy Australia therefore supports the recommendation of the Australian Dairy Industry Council that, on balance, the Victorian Government should allow the moratorium on GM canola to expire.

Yours sincerely

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