

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 195

Name of Individual/Organisation: The Hon Christine Campbell MP – Member
for Pascoe Vale

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

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17 August 2007

I am writing to express my support for the continuation of the present moratorium upon GM canola. I draw attention to a number of concerns pertaining to the danger that GM canola poses to the environment and the integrity of Australia's agricultural industry.

A matter of deep concern is the threat posed to the environment by GM crops. This threat is based in two parts; firstly is the threat of contamination of non-GM crops by GM crops, secondly many GM crops have been created to be herbicide resistant.

Despite the assurances of some scientists it is well nigh impossible to guarantee the integrity of an area sown with GM crops. Additional to this is the potential for cross contamination of plants other than crops.

The supposed advantage of herbicide resistant crops is that greater levels of chemicals may be used to control weeds without damaging the crop. However, with the adverse affects of chemicals upon the environment well known and documented this appears to be a step in the wrong direction.

Australia is presently renowned as a producer of clean and organic agricultural products. Until now this status was protected by Australia's geographical isolation, however, the introduction of GM crops poses a major threat to this reputation. Given that there is a continually growing demand for organic produce this reputation should be considered as an advantage to the industry, and one that should be protected.

Attention should be drawn to the fact that at present there is little independent evidence supporting GM canola's claim to increased yield. In fact, to date GM crops have been failures relative to the crops they have been designed to replace. Add to this the market's preference for non-GM canola; GM canola makes little sense in purely economic terms.

Given the dangers that GM crops pose to the environment and agricultural industry I would argue that Victoria's present moratorium should remain in place.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Christine Campbell MP
Member for Pascoe Vale