

Submission Cover Sheet

# Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

**Submission Number:** 199

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**Date Received:** 7 August 2007

**Number of Pages:** 2

**Attachments Submitted with this Submission:**

To obtain copies of these attachments please call the Review Panel Secretariat on  
(03) 9658 4874 or (03) 9658 4871

7 August 2007

GM Canola Review Panel Secretariat

Department of Primary Industries

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Melbourne VIC 3001

CC: Premier John Brumby

David Llewellyn

Tasmanian Clerk of Committees

NSW GM Crop Moratorium Review Secretariat

Premier Morris Iemma

Executive Officer, SA GM Crop Advisory Committee

Premier Mike Rann

RE: Request to extend the GM Canola Ban until 2013

Dear Review Panel Members,

I am very concerned at the prospect of the GM canola ban being lifted in Victoria and in Australia in general.

I understand that the Panel will be focussing solely on the economic impacts of lifting or extending the ban. I would like to raise the following points:

Australia's GM-Free status has resulted in significant economic benefits to us  
premiums of A\$120/tonne over the past 2 years for our GM-free canola  
access to global canola markets as the SOLE GM-free canola supplier.

Introducing GM canola would introduce costs we currently do not have:  
costs associated with segregating, testing and handling GM & GM-free shipments  
costs of controlling herbicide-intolerant weeds by out-crossing and from increasing use of herbicides  
costs of having a co-existent system, borne primarily by GM-free canola growers  
reduced competitive advantage through downgrading of our current 'clean, green, safe food supplier' status.

I note that an RIRDC report on GM canola by Anderson & Jackson says that "the average Australian farm household income would decrease with GM adoption - even with rice and wheat included - if the EU moratorium remains."

I believe that so far, Bayer and Monsanto have not yet delivered on their promise of producing drought and salt tolerant crops. This, I believe, would be worth exploring. However, I challenge you to prove that

the economic benefit of GM canola would outweigh the significant economic costs mentioned above and its IRREVERSIBLE impact on our current competitive advantage as a GM-free producer.

I strongly urge you to extend the moratorium until 2013.

Sincerely,

Joanne van Ravenswaaij