

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 200

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

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To <GMcanola.Review@dpi.vic.gov.au>
cc
bcc
Subject

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concern and apprehension over the Victorian government's plan to lift the moratorium on the growing of genetically engineered crops in Victoria in 2008. I strongly urge the government to extend the moratorium until the cost of trade and market impacts on human health and wellbeing and the environment have been accurately assessed. How can the panel say it will not consider human health and safety and the environment in its inquiry? It is commonsense to recognise that a healthy economy can only continue to remain so if it is managed wisely. This requires an ability to recognise the interplay of all facets of our society, our economy, and our environment. It is easy to see the effect of terrorism on the economy. It is easy to imagine the effect that our environment would have on the economy if we were resources (coal etc) poor. Thus a knowledgeable and sustainable implementation and management of resources is imperative.

The impact of commercial growing of g.m.crops on Australian soil is high risk. And most significantly it is not reversible. Australia is recognised as being clean and green by overseas markets. Europe is vehemently opposed to g.m.crops. G.M. crops have been dumped in third world countries because nobody wants them.

If we extend the ban we will:

- 1) enhance and maintain our image as a primary producer of quality natural food products - unadulterated, contaminant free, safe. Over 80% of the world's canola production, in 20 countries, is G.M.free. Only Canada and the U.S.A grow herbicide tolerant canola and production has not increased since 1999..
- 2) ensure premium prices for export products. Australia is the only G.M. free seller and we accessed all markets and got premiums of up to A\$120 (ABARE) over the past two years.
- 3) support internal economic stability because:
 - a) testing, identity preservation, segregation, labelling would not be necessary
 - b) the inevitable damage to our organic industry which is growing rapidly here in Australia (and unable to keep up with overseas demand) would be averted.
 - c) NO monopoly ownership and control of chemicals and seeds (an E.U. economic report shows Bayer and Monsanto benefit most from G.M.crops and foods)

There is no short term advantage to lifting the moratorium but there is a huge economic advantage to extending the moratorium. The inquiry needs to be conducted not with tunnel vision but an over-arching and long ranging perspective. From this perspective the possibility for a stable and sustainable and prosperous economy is viable.

Ann Lazzaro.