

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 77

Name of Individual/Organisation: Cardinia Ratepayer & Residents Assoc. Inc.

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

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Submission 77

FOR ATTENTION DEPT. OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

To:

Department of Primary Industries
Level 19, Spring Street,
Melbourne. Vic. 3001



Copy forwarded to:

Hon. J. Brumby
Premier of Victoria
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne.

The attached Submission is forwarded in response to the current State government review of the Moratorium on the growing of Genetically Manipulated crops in Victoria.

G. O'Connor
Gloria O'Connor
President

Cardinia Ratepayer & Residents Assoc. Inc.

20/08/07

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**Submission from Cardinia Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc.
regarding the State government review of the moratorium on commercial growing
of genetically manipulated crops.**

It is a matter of serious concern that the current review of the moratorium on growing of genetically modified crops has had very little public discussion. Very little information has been circulated by government and in fact the majority of Victorian consumers who will be affected by a decision on this issue have not been consulted.

A further serious concern is the terms of reference of the enquiry actually stating that any possible impacts on human health and safety and the environment will not be considered. Human health and environmental effects will always be an integral factor in government economy.

In both of the above listed aspects of concern, the enquiry fails as a legitimate and accurately informed basis on which to form a decision. Consequently, the Victorian government is then failing in its duty of care to the community on this issue.

With regard to the economic considerations of lifting the ban on GM commercial crop growing, it is well known that Australia has major advantages as a non-GM producer of food. Evidence in overseas countries is showing more and more consumers not wanting GM product and in fact Canadian farmers are having difficulty marketing their GM crop, and relying on government subsidies to keep the farmers viable. This subsidisation should not be mistaken for approval or support of GM, it is actually a financial disaster for that country's agriculture. Do we want that situation in Australia?

Lifting the moratorium would put non GM farmers in a dangerous situation financially. The risks are known of GM contamination occurring and non GM producers could do nothing to protect their livelihood and their economic contribution to Victoria's economy.

Organic growers relying on supplying to a very large customer base would also be greatly disadvantaged financially even to the extent of losing their business totally if GM is set free in the agricultural and food growing community.

Consumers wanting non-GM food will avoid buying the produce from GM producers at every opportunity so there will be no financial gain there. Also, it is certain that consumer pressure will bring about labelling of products which will be a cost to the producers and drive up the food prices unnecessarily.

Trials and testing of GM technology are as yet a long way from being finalised to the satisfaction of growers and consumers. Claims are being made that cannot be substantiated re benefits of GM produce, which is a further reason that consumers will go

to great lengths to avoid this produce. Financial gain to GM growers will not be realised and if government subsidies occur as in Canada, that will be financial disadvantage to taxpayers i.e. consumers.

Of the three countries marketing canola product internationally in 2006, Australia was the only GM free source which has gave this country an enormous financial advantage and would continue to do so. Why lose that by giving way to the GM lobby?

In reality, the only financial gain to come from lifting the moratorium and allowing open slather on GM growing will go the Monsanto and Bayer, the marketers of chemicals and eventual controllers of seed sources.

Why take away from Australian farmers their most valuable advantage, the status of clean, green and safe food producers? Is this financial gain?

Why take away from consumers their right to clean, green and safe food supplies, so that they will be impacted by higher prices (financial disadvantage) confused by product labeling inconsistency (financial costs to consumer) and if health impacts do occur, health services (financial costs for testing and allergic reaction research etc)

Insufficient investigation, research, testing and trial growing has yet been carried out. The moratorium must be continued at least until 2013 by which time more knowledge and information will have been gained, particularly from overseas where the GM roll out appears to have been be a mistaken failure.

There is no financial advantage whatsoever to Australian consumers, taxpayers or ratepayers in allowing GM commercial growing to proceed. We have sufficient food for our needs, no one is asking for this product, except perhaps shareholders of Bayer and Monsanto chemical marketing companies.

G. O'Connor

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17/08/07

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