

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 231

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

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bcc

Subject GM Free Australia - Support for Extending the Moratorium

Dear Sir/Madam

I on behalf of my extended family, I wish to protest strongly against the introduction of GE modified foods and crops imported to or grown in our country. We strongly support a permanent ban on these products from being consumed either by animal or human.

Australia is very lucky to have such high quality produce both for human and animal consumption. Our fresh GM free produce both plant and animal, and subsequently inherent superior quality is the envy of other nations and we have a strong comparative advantage which would strongly sustain us economically into the future.

I am aware of numerous newspaper reports over the years of accidental and easy contamination of GE seeds onto other farms overseas. This becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy and would spoil the uniqueness of our produce once and for all. There would be no turning back. It goes without saying, that our image overseas would be ruined and the perceived and actual value of our produce would be diminished. North America who grow GM herbicide tolerant canola have not increased their production in 8 years!

We are aware also that the market for seeds and the associated products for pesticides and other agricultural chemicals would become more monopolised, if not significantly so. Reducing this suppliers' market would only lead to higher prices and dependence for the farmer, inevitably higher prices for the consumer and the closure of many businesses.

There is a greater education and concern for health in our population reflected by the substantial growth for organic and biodynamic foods throughout Australia which is mirrored overseas. I have personally observed this with the opening of new shops, in the supermarket chains, at stalls and weekly markets. The average consumer treats GM food with skepticism and suspicion and the claims made by companies such as Monsanto are not supported by fully independent scientists and researchers nor by farmers overseas who grow GE crops.

The diversity of our seeds needs to be protected, and the strains of our current produce would place Australia in a more secure position both economically and socially should a disease affect a particular strain of plant. Such an occurrence would have a more detrimental impact on countries that allow and grow GM crops whether by intention or contamination.

We ask that Australia maintain its current advantage and strongly support the extension of the moratorium.

Tania Kanavas