

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 246

Name of Individual/Organisation: C Williamson

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

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(03) 9658 4874 or (03) 9658 4871

Sub 246

Department of
Primary Industries

03 SEP 2007

MAIL SERVICE CENTRE

30th August 2007

The Review Panel
Department of Primary Industries
GPO BOX 4440
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

RECEIVED

Dear Sirs

RE: CONCERNS OVER LIFTING OF GM MORATORIUM

I would like to voice my concerns to you about the lifting of bans against the growing of GM crops in Victoria.

The moratoriums were put in place to allow the biotech companies the opportunity to grow their trials. I have not seen too much evidence of trials during the last couple of years' drought, much less the results of these trials.

As GM canola is touted as giving spectacular results, I would have thought that the trial results would be headlined in as many agricultural papers as could be printed. Trials in other countries showing that the GM canola crops did not fair very well during dry times suggests that the drought may have something to do with that.

Leaving that aside, because the biotech and multi-nationals did not even attempt to grow their crops during the last two years, the moratoriums should be extended for a further three – five years. The biotech companies should take advantage of the moratorium to grow their crops, make their assessments and, of great importance, release the results of their trials.

For every study commissioned in favour of the lifting of moratoriums, there will be a study, just as informed and based on science, against it. Several scientists have recently stated that the yield advantage is just not there, there is no testing carried out to ensure human and animal health and even the slightest hint of weed resistance is too high a price to pay for use of a technology that is not going to deliver on its promises.

The States' moratoria should not be lifted until the trials have been completed. We are all hoping for an end to the drought and for better seasons to come. That, in itself, should ensure that the companies complete their trials. We should also be looking for independent trials of the crops and for thorough testing to be completed before we even consider lifting moratoriums and releasing of these crops.

Yours faithfully

C Williamson