

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 17

**Name of Individual/Organisation: Victorian Farmers Federation Campaign
Letter**

Date Received: Various

Number of Pages: 2

Number of Letters Received: 18 as of 28 August 2007

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

GM Canola Review Panel Secretariat
Department of Primary Industries
Level 19, 1 Spring Street
Melbourne, VIC, 3001

Dear Review Panel,

Termination of GM Moratorium

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my views to the review panel on this important issue. The GM moratorium and subsequent access to biotechnology is and extremely important issue to me as a producer in Victoria.

Cost of Moratorium

The moratorium that was imposed upon growers in 2003 has been a net cost to growers. There is little evidence of significant price premiums for non-GM canola however there is significant proof of input savings and yield improvements offered by GM canola.

If we look to Canada for an example of opportunity costs associated with the moratorium we see that they have enjoyed a yield benefit of over 10% on average and a resulting profitability increase of \$22/ha - \$45/ha.¹

Industry Readiness

As a grower in Victoria we are ready for the introduction of GM canola. Managing the introduction of GM canola will be an extension of the existing product quality standards required to be met by farmers.

The Australian grains industry currently manages international market requirements through industry-based standards. These standards are set each year by expertise-based committees who set thresholds for quality traits as well as admixture. These standards are the basis of receival standards which growers must meet when they deliver grain. These standards also form the basis of grain contracts and testing regimes.

Coexistence

Graham Brookes of PG Economics states in his 2004 report entitled *Co-existence of GM and non-GM crops: current experience and key principles* that, “evidence to date shows that GM and non GM crops (including organic) have successfully co-existed without causing economic/marketing problems since GM crops were first grown commercially in 1995. Specifically in relation to organic crops, which are most frequently cited as the type of production perceived to be most likely to experience co-existence difficulties with GM crops, the evidence is also clear – successful coexistence has been possible”.

Further in his 2004 report entitled *Co-existence in North American agriculture: can GM crops be grown with conventional and organic crops?* he notes that, “The evidence to date shows that GM crops, which now account for the majority (60%) of total soybean, corn and canola grown in North America (because of the farm level benefits obtained such as yield gains, cost savings and greater convenience/flexibility), have co-existed with conventional and organic crops without significant economic or commercial problems.

¹ Brookes, G and Barfoot, Peter, GM Crops: The First Ten Years – Global Socio-Economic and Environmental Impacts, ISAAA 2006

I feel that the grains industry has been disadvantaged when compared to our competitors by the moratorium. Since the industry has proven itself to be capable of efficient segregation it is time to lift the moratorium and to allow growers in Victoria choice.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to a farming environment that allows me to decide whether I use biotechnology in my farming system.

Yours Sincerely,

Name

Town