

Submission Cover Sheet

# Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

**Submission Number: 24**

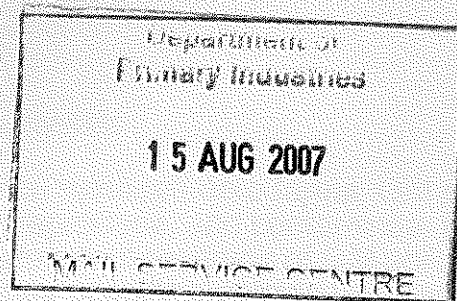
**Name of Individual/Organisation: Milawa Mustards Pty Ltd**

**Date Received: 15 August 2007**

**Number of Pages: 2**

**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



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Submission 24

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9th August 2007

GM Canola Review Panel  
Department of Primary Industries  
Level 19, 1 Spring Street  
GPO Box 4440  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Re: Extend the State Ban on Genetically Manipulated (GM) canola till 2013

Dear GM Canola Review Panel ,

We are a small business in North East Victoria employing 10 people. We are located in the centre of The Milawa Gourmet Region near Wangaratta, an area now well known for a diverse range of gourmet food and wine produce.

We established very unique business 25 years ago and produce a large range of gourmet mustards and condiments. Our main point of sale is that we grow the ingredients for our products ie: mustard seed, herbs, chillies etc. This is why we are extremely concerned about the proposed lifting of GM crop bans. One of our concerns is that if GM canola were to be grown in our vicinity it would only be a matter of time before contamination of our crop would occur, mustard being of the same family, secondly it would become impossible to eliminate wild radish and related weeds once they acquired herbicide tolerance from GM canola. Once this has happened there would be no going back and we would be unable to grow our own seed. We could possibly, and only very possibly import seed, but as Canada is the worlds largest grower of mustard seed, and is growing GM canola we would be very wary of importing from there. Even if we could source GM free seed, it is not the point, we have built our reputation on the fact that we do grow our own ingredients and this is what our customers want and expect.

Thank you for the state ban on commercial Genetically Manipulated (GM) canola since 2003. We ask you to extend the GM ban for a further five years until 2013, at least.

Monsanto, Nufarm and Bayer – and some researchers are misleading farmers with false promises that GM grains and pastures will solve drought, heat, salty soil, bloat and allergy problems. But even if they are developed, these crops are at least a decade away, if ever. There are no good reasons to accept GM canola now.

GM herbicide tolerant canola:

- Will pollute: Once released onto farms, GM crops can't be recalled but can spread, multiply, reproduce, and contaminate permanently. Wild radish and turnip will become a permanent reservoir of GM pollution, and more costly and difficult to manage, when they acquire herbicide tolerance from GM canola.
- Is risky: Independent research is needed into the causes of: infertility reported among GM grain-fed cattle and pigs in the USA; bee Colony Collapse Disorder in the USA; and the spread of pathogens such as Fusarium wilt and bunchy top in Australian GM cotton;
- Isn't wanted: All polls show most Australians, Europeans and Japanese shoppers reject GM foods, putting local and export markets at risk.

I ask that you:

- extend the state ban on genetically manipulated (GM) canola until 2013;
- include local government fully in your consultation processes;
- only consider lifting the ban in consultation with all other states and territories as GM canola pollen and seed do not respect state or natural boundaries;
- require GM canola varieties to undergo independent National Variety Trials, to compare all aspects of their performance with the best conventional varieties, prior to any decisions on the moratorium;
- ensure GM-free foods remain available and that all foods produced using gene technology are fully labelled. Our family wants to ensure we can continue eating GM-free Australian foods. GM imposes risks without benefits;
- reconsider the GM canola licences issued in 2003, in the light of new scientific evidence of health and environmental impacts from GM crops and foods,

A written reply to our letter would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

*Anna Bienvenu*

Director: Anna Bienvenu

*David M. Bienvenu*

Director: David Bienvenu