

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 129

Name of Individual/Organisation: Leonie May

Date Received: 15 August 2007

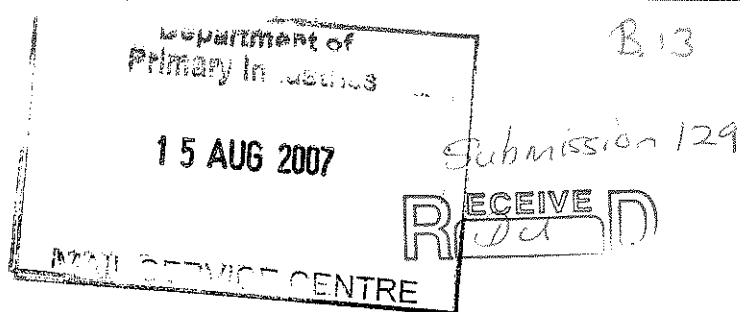
Number of Pages: 1

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

9th August 2007

GM Canola Review Panel Secretariat
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,

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

As an employee of Milawa Mustard Pty Ltd, a unique small business in the centre of the Milawa Gourmet Region near Wangaratta, an area well known for a diverse range of gourmet food and wine produce, I am extremely worried about the consequences of the introduction of GM crops.

If GM were to be introduced it would definitely impact on the prosperity of Milawa Mustard, therefore my employment. Contamination of the mustard crops would inevitably spell the end of the business as we know it. The reputation of the business has been built on the understanding that the ingredients are home grown if this became impossible, I would seriously worry about my job security.

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,

Please send me a written reply to my letter.

Yours sincerely,

Signed: *Leonie May*

Name: *Leonie May*.....