

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

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(03) 9658 4874 or (03) 9658 4871

Dear GM Canola Review Panel Secretariat,

It is galling that with no evidence of health or economic benefits, Victoria is considering joining the deluded herd marching towards a completely contaminated GM supply.

What seems to be overlooked in debates about GE is that the burden of evidence is on the agro-businesses that seek to profit from the uptake of GE foods around the world to prove that their product is safe, that it constitutes a demonstrable improvement for all consumers on non-GE food sources and - given long term evidence on this question can not be found - that it poses no risk to any non-GE food source.

Not only has the burden of evidence not been met, in many areas repeated attempts to meet it had failed.

The evidence we do have is that A GM free Australia:

- attracts a premium on our farm exports
- preserves the economic viability of the non-GE and growing organic/biodynamic food markets
- reduces costs to growers not forced to segregate and identity preservation
- reduces costs in litigation related to GE contamination of non-GE food supply, including consumer suits on grounds of inadequate labeling and competition

This is our food supply for heaven's sake, not something which - if it all falls over - we can survive without. Parts of the world have recognised this and will preserve their non-GE agricultural sector for when the remainder comes to its senses. Australia should be in the former group - trumpeting the precautionary principle - not the latter.

And at the very least, as it seems a fait accompli that recommendations to end the moratorium are to be made, the Secretariat must ensure the strictest of laws ensuring full compensation for lost markets to non-GE producers, and full disclosure on product labels for consumers.

After all, if what the agro-businesses say - about the contain-ability of GE crops and the desire of consumers to purchase them - is true, neither should pose any barrier to the brave new GE world.

Sincerely,

Dr Leslie Cannold