

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 136

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

To obtain copies of these attachments please call the Review Panel Secretariat on
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GM Canola Review Panel Secretariat

Department of Primary Industries

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Dear Sirs,

GM Canola

We wish to submit the following in support of the ban on GM crops being grown in Australia.

On a recent visit to Switzerland we noted the extensive promotion of non GM food products. GM foods are not wanted in Europe because they are well aware of the problems which GM foods have produced.

Australia has a ready market in Europe and Asia for non GM products, because we can avoid the high costs of handling, testing, segregation, etc. often associated with GM products during shipping and transport.

Should the GM ban be lifted, it would place higher costs on GM growers – machinery and trucks used by contractors has to be separate or go through extensive cleaning before being used for harvesting. We would destroy our GM-free reputation for **all** foods. The risk of herbicide tolerant weeds would be a financial burden on the entire community from private gardens to National Parks, because the spread of GM Canola can never be controlled. When, not if, herbicide resistant weeds develop, there would be no means of preventing them smothering much of our already suffering indigenous vegetation. How would we remove them? Our plant and animal diversity would be decimated – a national tragedy.

With a ban on GM canola, Australia has the advantage of selling all our food products on the open market. Customers are prepared to pay high prices for guaranteed uncontaminated food.

It is our understanding that prices for GM products are no cheaper than those for non GM foods, yet create rich rewards for the Bayer and Monsanto companies who appear to be only interested in profit.

Please make sure that Australia retains a ban on GM canola for the welfare of Australians, both growers and consumers.

Yours truly,

Peter and Kathie Strickland

cc. The Hon. Mr. John Brumby, Premier, Victoria
Tasmanian Review of GM Crops ban, Hobart
David Llewellyn, Minister for Primary Industries, Tasmania
GM Crop Moratorium Review Secretariat. NSW Department of Primary Industries
Premier Morris Iemma, Premier NSW
Premier Mike Rann, Premier, South Australia