

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

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Dear review panel secretariat,
We are writing in favour
of extending the GM Moratorium until 2013.

We believe it would be highly damaging to the trade economy as well as Australia's reputation for quality clean foods if it was to lose the clean GM-free status. As it currently stands Australia is the only GM free canola exporter. We have the competitive edge as a result of global demand for GE free products - giving a rise in premiums over the past couple of years ~~to~~ up to A\$120/tonne (ABARE, 2007).

Lessons should be drawn from Canada and the United States as evidence for the economic benefits of continuing the ban.

Neither of these countries have seen a rise in production of GM Herbicide tolerant canola since 1999, and the total area devoted to GM canola has not expanded in those years either.

Instead of increased yields and profits their farmers share a large proportion with Monsanto and Bayer decreasing their Real income.

However, we believe contamination of GE Canola pollen would prove to be a great economic burden in Australia if the ban was dropped as it's showing to be in the USA and Canada.

The pollen of Canola plants is known to travel great distances and cross pollination amongst GE Canola and relatives like turnips, ryegrass, charlock and barnyard grass can produce herbicide tolerant "SUPER-WEEDS".

We'd like to ask, who then is going to fit the bill for controlling herbicide resistant weed? - Surely not Monsanto

The cost would fall on farmers, gardeners and councils.

There would also be extensive economic costs to conventional farmers, biodynamic and organic producers in order to ensure and confidentially label their produce GE-Free, or to remain on the truefood guide. But exactly how can this industry be protected from contamination and their livelihoods protected?

Experience overseas show the big bio-tech companies do not pay to contain areas where their patents are growing. But they are happy to prosecute those accidentally contaminated.

The preference for Organics has steadily increased in many OECD countries. Organic certified produce is guarantee of GM-free - one reason for its popularity. It would therefore be wise to extend the ban and concentrate on the clean-green image this country has, and reap the benefits of that image in trade.

Continuing the ban would:

- Add no extra costs to segregate (probably not possible anyway)
- Continue to enjoy high prices on canola due to preference for GM-free.
- No additional loss of income ~~for~~ farmers - who'd otherwise have to share income with Monsanto/Bayer.
- The EU would continue to import Aussie produce such as wine, meat and dairy - GE-Free!!
- Consumer confidence - especially for Mothers!

Please respect consumer's wishes.

Regards,

Celia McPartlin & Sam Oliver