

Submission Cover Sheet

# Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

**Submission Number:** 140

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**Attachments Submitted with this Submission:**

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(03) 9658 4874 or (03) 9658 4871

To whom it may concern,

As a Victorian, I am extremely worried about the possible lifting of the GM canola ban in my home state. I understand that the review is not considering health, safety or environmental concerns, I think this is unbelievable. To me and many others these are the central issues with GM crops. Nevertheless, I believe the economic security and prosperity of the food industry in Victoria will be negatively impacted if the ban is lifted.

With the ban in place, Victoria has a competitive advantage in global canola markets as the only GM-free canola trader. This will be lost if the ban is lifted. The market for organics and wholefoods is growing extremely quickly in Australia, EU and US. More and more consumers are concerned about toxic chemicals and food contamination. If the GM canola ban is lifted we would have the higher costs of ensuring organic, biodynamic and conventional foods labelled GM-free were still available for the high demand.

If Victoria chooses to extend the commercial GM canola ban, it would mean Australia could continue to sell all foods into any market, often at premium prices. We can keep our competitive advantage over GM growers in the US and Canada, both of which are direct competitors on the global market. Only three countries sold canola in world markets in 2006 - Canada 70%; USA 11%; Australia 19%. Australia is the only GM-free seller so we accessed all markets and got premiums of up to A\$120 (ABARE) over the past two years. We should keep our competitive advantage by extending the ban until 2013, at least. We can also continue to develop GM-free conventional and organic foods.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Emma Russell