

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 Sir

This is my submission to the state review of the moratorium on genetically engineered food crops. As well as endorsing the below message, I would like to urge All governmmnets to show some vision, even if it means our "island" advantage meaning we can be the last place "real" food is grown - even as an economic advantage this would be immeasurable. But this argument should ber about mroe than short term economics: this is worse than the cane toad of the moment. Once you do it it won't be undone. And all the so-called science does not refute that organically or naturally grown foods are not viable, with proper support. Orgaqaic foods will increase in "value" as th wrold becomes more savvy. And the word "viable" is a relative word; a "value" word. I strongly urge you to stop genetically engineered (GE) canola from contaminating our food, by recommending the extension of the current moratorium on GE food crops.

Canola is used in many foods, and in animal feed. There is growing evidence that GE crops damage ecosystems and could harm our health. Just like cane toads, once this hazard is introduced it can never be recalled. I don't want Canada's experience of widespread GE contamination repeated here.

I believe that the current moratorium on GE food crops should be extended for the following reasons:

Consumers don't want GE

Polls consistently show that the majority of Australians don't want to eat GE food. The same is true for our major export markets such as Japan and Europe.

Contamination is inevitable and segregation impossible A Western Australian Parliamentary inquiry into genetic engineering formed the view that 'contamination of non-GM crops by GM crops is inevitable, segregation is not practical and that identity preservation can be achieved, but at a significant cost.' The lifting of the GE food crop ban would result in the inevitable contamination of our fields and our foods with GE canola, as has already occurred in Canada.

GE crops will not benefit farmers

In a recent report, Nuffield scholar Andrew Broad estimated that genetically engineered (GE) Roundup Ready canola would cost \$27.82 per hectare more to grow than conventional canola. He claimed that this would be compensated for if there was a yield gain of 4%, not taking into account the additional costs of segregation and identity preservation. However, a review by the Australian Productivity Commission concluded that Canadian GE canola varieties have only shown a 1% increase in yield. This increase is likely to be quickly eroded by problems of herbicide resistance.

GE crops will harm non-GE farmers Currently, non-GE farmers are expected to bear many, if not most, of the costs of introducing genetically engineered (GE) crops. The Australian Bureau of Resource Economics (ABARE) has estimated that the introduction of GE canola will cost non-GE farmers 5-15% of the farmgate value of their crop. Non-GE farmers will also be exposed to increased financial risk, including potential liability and lost market access, when the inevitable contamination occurs.

GE crops will risk markets

Australian farmers currently receive premiums and preferential market access for their canola because of its GE-free status. These premiums would be lost if GE canola were grown - and our valuable export markets, such as Japan and Europe, would be put at risk.

GE crops cannot be recalled

Once GE crops are released into the environment they cannot be recalled. As living organisms they can reproduce and pollute indefinitely.

The introduction of GE canola to Australia would result in unacceptable risks to our farmers and markets, to say nothing of the risk to our health and the environment. I strongly urge you to recommend the extension of the state GE food crop moratorium by 5 years and the labelling of all GE food, including oils and products from animals fed GE feed.

Yours sincerely  
Mr Grant Caldwell  
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