

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

I have just made a submission using the form letter that I found, but feel that this was a mistake - this matter is so important that I simply must make a submission in my own words.

I am immensely concerned about the use of GE crops in Australia. Frankly I am appalled by the single-mindedness and narrow thinking of those who say that Australia must jump on the GE bandwagon or be left behind in the global market. I can only think that these people are gormless followers who so lack initiative, imagination or creativity, that they are willing to assume that something that is not proven safe, and clearly has the potential to create so many problems, is a good thing for our industry or for the generations to come. Technology is not always the answer to everything - often time shows that it doesn't solve problems, but rather that it creates new ones.

Organic, permaculture, biodynamics and other ecologically sustainable approaches to food production demonstrate that GE is not necessary - we should be developing these to their maximum potential for our own health and for that of the environment. I say that if other countries are short-sighted enough to believe the rhetoric of the agribusiness corporations who will profit from GE, Australia should remember that the pendulum always swings back; we will have a unique potential to market our produce as GE free when the rest of the world starts to realise the mistake it has made.

GE is about lining the pockets of big companies like Monsanto and Cargill, and has nothing whatever to do with providing a secure future for ordinary farmers or a secure source of healthy food for the global community. If Australia's agricultural industry prosperity depends, as GE promoters say it does, on technology that makes crops more resistant to pesticides so that more poisons can be used, adding to the toxicity in our soil and waterways, in our bodies and the bodies of the creatures we share the planet with; if it depends on technology that is not proven safe any more than the introduction of Cane Toads was proven safe; if it depends on allowing companies that are immoral enough to claim intellectual property rights over genetic material and develop 'terminator' genes so that farmers and others who may deliberately or inadvertently profit from second-generation crops, can be accused of intellectual property piracy; if the well-being and prosperity of Australia's agricultural industry depends on these things, then I would state loud and clear that we need to rebuild our ethics, redesign our agriculture industry, and rethink the world-views that can lead us to such a worrying conclusion.

I do not and will not support GE products. I will actively boycott such products and will encourage others to do the same.

Yours sincerely
Ms Kerry Dawborn
VIC