

Submission Cover Sheet

# Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

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**Attachments Submitted with this Submission:**

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Dear Sir

For some time I have been following the genetically engineered food debate. I cannot stress the level of anguish that I feel about this manipulation of natural organisms.

There is a growing mountain of scientific evidence, statistical evidence and anecdotal evidence that GE foods are not safe for human or food animal consumption or for inclusion in any way into the food chain in any quantity no matter how small. The effects of placing foreign genes into foods plants and animals to achieve the so called benefits has been proven to be unpredictable, unreliable, of questionable benefit and creates transgenic abominations foreign to the natural world.

Many countries, especially in the European Union now are moving to ban GE food imports and GE crops. Japan has come out in strong opposition to GM foods and crops and there is growing resistance in many Asian countries. If this continues worldwide and Australia adopts GM, then we will have virtually annihilated our entire food export markets with one stupid decision.

No wonder someone labeled GE "frankenfoods." Man thinks he is so clever but I contend that he does not even begin to understand the interactive complexity of genetics. There are forces and subtleties at work in nature that defy our clumsy, inept efforts at manipulation. I view GE as if it were forcing a cancer down the throat of life. It disgusts me. I believe the backlash against GE is growing. Everyone I speak to on the subject says the same thing, no matter how informed or educated they are. They all say the same thing. They don't want GM!

Companies pushing GE have a dubious track record in many areas, from poor science to inadequate testing. In many counties around the world, major biotech companies have been found guilty of criminal practices, deception and misrepresentation. Do we want to believe the claims they make? Do we believe their motives are ethical? I don't.

The so called "science" of GE is absolutely astonishing in its naivety. The current problem of the death of 95% of northern America's bee population in a case in point - this has been blamed on the widespread introduction of Monsanto's BT corn, a sickening ugly product that creates its own poison to kill crop pests. Nobody has owned up to the fact that this is what is probably killing the bees as well. Without bees to pollinate crops and to perform the many other functions they fulfill in the natural world, the whole food production chain is unfertilised and sterile. Pigs and cattle in the US have been fed Monstersanto's GE corn and have become sterile. Am I ringing any alarm bells yet?

GM farming practices create monocultures across vast tracts of farming land which has been shown to be easily exploited by unnaturally large populations of insects and a big increase in disease problems unforeseeable in the past. Continual spraying of glyphosate causes development of resistant organisms that require ever increasing doses of herbicide to control them. Some scientist admits this has lead to the establishment of super weeds which have no natural pests or checks on their spread that will become impossible to control in the future.

Can you show me any independent peer reviewed scientific testing that has been done which proves that GE is safe? All safety testing seems to be done by scientists with links to the proponents of GE. Some even have funding

dependent on supplying favorable outcomes for the GE companies. Some are on the one hand senior members of biotech companies and/or hold political positions while at the same time sitting on the boards and regulatory structures such as the US FDA. The FDA has somehow approved GM almost without questioning the ramifications and safety of GM in a manner that is totally inconsistent with the established regulatory requirements for all other food products.

Segregation of GM and traditional seed crops has been shown to fail everywhere it has been attempted. GM crops cross pollinate natural crops even with large buffer zones between plantings. It has been demonstrated that it is impossible to prevent unintended mixing of grains at bulk handling facilities, in transport and shared and contract farm machinery.

Food and animals should be excluded from patenting. There needs to be a vote on the issue of patenting life forms in Australia. The government has done little to inform the public of the dangers of GM and no wonder; once informed most people are outraged.

Personally, I will not knowingly or willingly consume any product or food that contains any form of genetic manipulation. I will boycott any company or food producer that makes, grows or markets or includes any amount of GE in any of its products.

I demand that all foods that have GE are clearly and conspicuously labeled as such so that I can exercise my right of choice. How can problems with any GM food be tracked in consumer populations if it is not labeled properly and people and the medical system does not know it is eating them? There will be no tractability when problems arise and this will lengthen the time it takes to react and ban the product. No matter how small the GM component of food, it needs to be prominent on the label. The choices we make as consumers at the supermarkets and food outlets will determine the future of food. We, the citizens and consumers of this great country Australia have the democratic right to choose. Denial of this right will ultimately have dire economic and health repercussions and a political backlash from angry voters.

I advocate that trials of all GM crops be banned indefinitely, that imports of GM grain and all other GM food be banned indefinitely and that a review of the whole GM debacle is initiated to uncover the lies and fallacies of vested interests and that legislative action is taken to protect Australians from this abuse.

Yours sincerely

Mr Glenn Bain

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