

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 148

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

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Dear Sir

Travelling overseas I have noticed that Australia and Victoria are considered to be places where the food is 'clean and green'. I urge you to continue to protect our sensitive and vulnerable farms and farmlands, which are a precious asset, by extending the moratorium on GE food crops.

Many members of the public are grateful for efforts to prevent genetically engineered (GE) canola from contaminating food.

As someone who is trying to behave responsibly by purchasing food grown in a manner that protects the environment, I consider that the use of GE crops is not in my interests, or the interests of many medium and small farmers. On the contrary, it is in the interests of a few large transnational companies. The argument I have heard, that developing GE crops will assist people in developing countries is absurd. Companies that market GE technology are not interested in philanthropy but in protecting their patents and profits, and farmers in developing countries are requesting changes to trade barriers, not GE technology.

Anybody who has spent time living in the country will be aware that contamination is inevitable and segregation impossible, and I understand that contamination has already occurred. Removing the safeguards currently in place will damage the many farmers, including organic farmers, who are able to market their produce as uncontaminated and healthy.

Further, it is outrageous that as I understand it there will be no financial protection for these farmers in the event of contamination as the marketers of GE technology accept no liability.

As a consumer, I reject GE food and the majority of Australians have the same opinion.

I strongly urge you to recommend extending the state GE food crop moratorium by five years and the labelling of all GE food, including oils and products from animals fed GE feed.

Yours sincerely
Ms Margaret Jacobs

VIC