

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

17 August 2007

GM Canola Review Panel Secretariat, Dept Primary Industries,
Level 19-1 Spring Street,
GPO Box 4440, MELBOURNE Vic 3000

Dear Panel Members,

I have a small apiary business which produce and sell clean green honey to people who **want pure non G.M uncontaminated honey** at various outlets around the state.

We take great pride in producing this product and we have many return customers. These people want our product because of where we collect our produce and know that if the moratorium is lifted our sales will suffer because of the threat to the pure product reputation. There has been a great resurgence with the public purchasing from small producers as the store purchased honey is now not trusted as being pure Australian honey and tastes different. The big packers are blending honey with cheap imported honey and still selling as pure Australian Honey (based on a minimum amount which still permits them to call it 100 % Australian honey (**poor labelling rules that packers of all foods manipulate to con the consumers**). Figures show app. 600 tonnes a month coming into Australia from third world countries that have not got poor controls over quality or content (chemical or bio hazardous) and as Canola is the world's largest honey producing plant, do I have to say more? To prove my point I take note that the federal minister has **just stopped the import of chemically contaminated fish from overseas**.

On an over seas trading view point Australian honey is renowned for quality and has a great reputation so if you want to jeopardise this market for all primary producers, lift the ban. **There are growing local & overseas markets that want unconditionally non contaminated products (chemical or bio hazardous) and feel that we are in a perfect opportunity to take advantage of this market pre-requirement so why why why risk our most precious status as a clean green producer this market is worth millions of dollars in the future.**

Why make it such a burden on clean green producers for the commercial gain of such a big multinational corporation? If it is necessary to have this product at all why not restrict its growing to a declared region where other farmers don't run the risk of contaminating their products? Transport could also be eliminated as a cross contaminant as they would be dealing with either GM or NON GM produce.

So in case you missed my point please do not allow the lifting of the ban as their will be **huge financial benefits in staying a non GM producing country**. Just have a look at whether the European Union wants G.M food, Answer no way. Why do Honey producers have to sign documents to the packers that their honey doesn't contain bio hazardous G.M products among other contaminates?

Yours Hopefully
For the sake of common sense and logic
Graham Connell

Copy To Premier John Brumby,
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne 3000