

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 206

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

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(03) 9658 4874 or (03) 9658 4871

GM Canola Review Panel Secretariat,
Department of Primary Industries,
GPO Box 4440,
Melbourne. Vic. 3001

Dear Sir/Madam,

GM Canola- Review of Ban.

May I express my concern that the GM Canola Ban may be lifted to enable the widespread use of GM Canola in Australia's primary industry.

It is my understanding that Australia has a clean and green image in the international marketplace and our products including canola command premium prices because it is not contaminated by GM influences (ABARE). On the other hand American grain is not GM free and is often sold at lower prices for non-human consumption such as animal feed and ethanol. If Australia went down the GM Canola path there would be a huge cost in identifying containers used for GM Canola so that other products would not be contaminated and that the international and local marketplaces could be satisfied that they could purchase GM free products from Australia. We would certainly lose our competitive advantage of being the only GM-free Canola trader and the premium price that our product commands. The cost of segregating the products for consumers would have to be borne by the non-GM section of the marketplace.

Australia has spent large sums of money on failed attempts to eradicate rabbits, foxes and cane toads, not to mention the huge loss to production and damage to our environment. These are things that are easily identified and can be fairly easily killed. Imagine what the cost would be if there was some inconceivable cross breeding between rabbits and cats, foxes and dogs or between cane toads and frogs. Yet this is the type of cross breeding with all types of weeds like wild turnips etc that is inevitable when GM Canola is released creating herbicide tolerant weeds. The cost of this clean up and attempted eradication will be borne by Australians through municipal rates to Shire and City Councils.

The claim to feed the world with GM products is just a pipe-dream and has not lived up to the promise of its promoters. The opportunity to rule the world is a more likely scenario. Monopoly ownership will profit greatly by selling its GM products and its Round-up type weed controls. A

European Economic report shows that the main beneficiaries are Bayer and Monsanto where GM crops and food are produced but food is not cheaper for the consumer.

An RIRDC report by Anderson & Jackson states that despite the financial gain predictions from GM crops, the average Australian Farm household income would decrease if the EU Moratorium remains in place.

Australians have to bear the cost of lost production from chemicals like Dieldrin & 24D which were recommended as safe but found to be otherwise. The presence of Erin Brockeridge in Australia at the moment is a reminder of the lengths multinationals will go to cover any adverse effect of their products to the detriment of human health and the considerable cost to the Australian health and welfare system.

Australia needs an extension of the moratorium on introduction of GM Canola until 2013.

Yours Faithfully
Bob Healy