

Submission Cover Sheet

# Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

**Submission Number:** 212

**Name of Individual/Organisation:** Christine Penny

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**Attachments Submitted with this Submission:**

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(03) 9658 4874 or (03) 9658 4871

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Date: 12/4/07

Submission 212

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GM Canola Review Panel Secretariat  
Department of Primary Industries  
Level 19, 1 Spring Street  
GPO Box 4440  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Re: Extend the State Ban on Genetically Manipulated (GM) canola till 2013

Dear Secretariat,

Thank you for the state ban on commercial Genetically Manipulated (GM) canola since 2003. We ask you to extend the GM ban for a further five years until 2013, at least.

My family, friends and I have several concerns about herbicide tolerant canola. This crop would mean more chemical spraying, more often. We do not accept that these weed killers are safe. GM agribusinesses - Monsanto, Nufarm and Bayer - and some researchers are misleading farmers with false promises that GM grains and pastures will solve drought, heat, salty soil, bloat and allergy problems. But even if they are developed, these crops are at least a decade away, if ever. There are no good reasons to accept GM canola now.

GM herbicide tolerant canola:

- Will pollute: Once released onto farms, GM crops can't be recalled but can spread, multiply, reproduce, and contaminate permanently. Wild radish and turnip will become a permanent reservoir of GM pollution, and more costly and difficult to manage, when they acquire herbicide tolerance from GM canola.
- Is risky: Independent research is needed into the causes of: infertility reported among GM grain-fed cattle and pigs in the USA; bee Colony Collapse Disorder in the USA; and the spread of pathogens such as Fusarium wilt and bunchy top in Australian GM cotton;
- Isn't wanted: All polls show most Australians, Europeans and Japanese shoppers reject GM foods, putting local and export markets at risk.

I ask that you:

- extend the state ban on genetically manipulated (GM) canola until 2013;
- include local government fully in your consultation processes;
- only consider lifting the ban in consultation with all other states and territories as GM canola pollen and seed do not respect state or natural boundaries;
- require GM canola varieties to undergo independent National Variety Trials, to compare all aspects of their performance with the best conventional varieties, prior to any decisions on the moratorium;
- ensure GM-free foods remain available and that all foods produced using gene technology are fully labelled. Our family wants to ensure we can continue eating GM-free Australian foods. GM imposes risks without benefits;
- reconsider the GM canola licences issued in 2003, in the light of new scientific evidence of health and environmental impacts from GM crops and foods,

Please send me a written reply to my letter.

Yours sincerely,

Signed: *Christine Penn*

Name: CHRISTINE PENN