

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

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Subject GM Crop Ban



To whom it may concern,

Please do not let the ban on GM canola be lifted! The impact of allowing GM crops to be grown in this state will have devastating effects on the economy, consumers, the land and wildlife. Monsanto and the other major agrichemical companies are not your friends. They are here to make money at any cost.

The 'evidence' to prove that GM crops are safe is seriously flawed and manipulated to have the desired outcome for those who stand to make the largest profit. It is not consumers, the economy or the farmers who benefit from GM crops - its the company who patents the genes, sells the seeds and corresponding chemicals.

As seen in the recent EU report which reveals that in the USA and Canada, it is Monsanto and Bayer Crop-Science who reap the majority of the profits - not the farmers. Furthermore, in these two countries it has been observed that productivity of GM canola has not increased since 1999, nor has the area devoted to GM canola crops increased since 1999. Dr Charles Benbrook (former agricultural advisor to the Carter, Reagan and Clinton administrations) warned Australia about the extensive hidden costs of accepting GM varieties.

GM crops are now using more herbicides than non-GM farms due to the development of new strains of herbicide resistant 'super- weeds'. The cost of the additional sprays is at the farmers expense. An additional economic burden to the North American farmers was the appreciable loss of markets as many countries do not want to buy GM products. As their crops are unpopular in the world market the WTO has stepped in to try and FORCE the EU and African nations to accept their GM. The North American governments heavily subsidise struggling farmers who took up these 'great new technologies'. Could Australia afford a similar experience?

No, already struggling with drought - to subsidise farmers with crops no one wants to buy is unfeasible.

Who would pick up the bill for treating the herbicide resistant weeds- regional councils? individual farmers?

We have been getting premiums of up to \$120 a tonne for our GE- Free canola, we should keep our competitive edge and continue to enjoy high prices knowing our canola is enjoyed by humans and not designated to animal feed or ethanol production as is Canada's GM variety.

Imagine what would happen with a crop like canola who's pollen can travel for hundreds of kilometres, cross-pollinate some poor unsuspecting farmers field, and then Monsanto (or the like) demand testing of fields in the surrounding area, prosecute anyone who has 'stolen' *their* gene, and then the farmer has to pay the damages, potentially leaving them landless. How is that good for the economy or well being of society?

And what about choice? What if people don't *want* to eat GM food? What happens when Organic or even Conventional foods are contaminated with GM genes when they're growing?

Myself and everyone I know would not choose to eat GM foods. There has not been enough independent and comprehensive testing on GM crops to bow to the pressure of these companies and allow their crops to be grown in this state or country.

Do you want the legacy of your government to be one of short-sighted, spineless decisions made for the benefit of a few to the detriment of many?

Yours Sincerely,

Andrea Sumner