

Submission Cover Sheet

# Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

**Submission Number:** 152

**Name of Individual/Organisation:** Tom Kingston

**Date Received:** August 2007

**Number of Pages:** 1

**Attachments Submitted with this Submission:**

To obtain copies of these attachments please call the Review Panel Secretariat on  
(03) 9658 4874 or (03) 9658 4871

RECEIVED  
JUN 15 2007**GM Canola Review Panel Secretariat**

Department of Primary Industries  
Level 19, 1 Spring Street  
GPO Box 4440  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my opinion on the Review on the GM Canola Ban. I am against any change to the current ban on Canola or for that matter any GM crops in Victoria.

My concerns about the decision to remove the ban are based on a number of reasons. The main one is a concern about introducing GM crops into the health stream of humans with no really long term health assessments. However, I have other concerns. I believe the economic impacts of the bans on commercial gene manipulated canola up to the present have been very positive for Victoria's economy. Australia's GM-free food supply has meant premiums of up to A\$120/tonne for GM-free canola abroad (ABARE, 2007), no chronic GM contamination problems in export shipments, no added segregation, identity preservation or shipping costs needed for GM canola, a competitive advantage in global canola markets as the only GM-free canola trader, and high shopper confidence in the quality of our food supply.

Also on the economic front, if the GM canola ban expires we would have the higher costs of testing, identity preservation, segregation, handling, rejected shipments, some lost markets and lower confidence in Australia's clean, green, GM-free reputation for all foods.

I believe, based on my own research, that extending the commercial GM canola ban would mean Australia could continue to sell all foods into any market, often at premium prices, keep its competitive advantage over GM growers in North and South America, and continue to develop GM-free conventional and organic foods.

I believe that the moratorium on commercial GM canola should be extended until 2013, at least, because no other GM crops being researched could be available in the next five years, promises of healthier foods, drought and salt tolerant crops, longer shelf life food, etc. are just hopeful promises (Glover 2005, in Corish 2005). Over 80% of the world's canola production, in 20 countries, is GM-free. Only Canada and the USA grow GM herbicide tolerant canola and production has not increased since 1999. Only three countries sold canola in world markets in 2006 - Canada 70%; USA 11%; Australia 19%. We should keep our competitive advantage.

Hence, I would strongly support the extension of the moratorium.  
Thanking you for your attention.

Tom Kingston

