

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 155

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Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

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6th August 2007

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

Cc: Mr John Brumby
Victorian State Premier

To whom it may concern

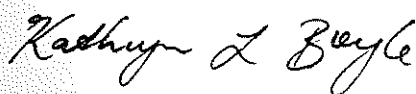
I am writing to ask that your panel extend the current moratorium on GM canola crops in this State until at least 2013. I understand that your terms of reference do not allow for the consideration of human health or environmental concerns in the use of GM food crops. What an appalling oversight. How can such an important issue be assessed purely in economic terms? The unknowns of GM food crops for both humans and the environment should never be excluded from such a debate!

Even in economic terms, I ask that the moratorium be extended. Farmers are currently receiving a premium price for GM-free canola and we would be securing a competitive advantage if we remained a GM-free producer in competition with producers in North America because of the EU ban on GM food crops.

Lifting the GM moratorium will only further open the way for the development of near monopoly situations where a very small number of trans-national corporations will have control of a significant amount of the canola crop through seed and chemical sales. Problems of contamination may well become far more costly in the future than applying the precautionary principle now.

I feel very strongly about this issue and was assured by my local Labor State Member of Parliament, Joanne Duncan, in the lead-up to the last Victorian election that there were no plans to lift the moratorium when it was due for review. I urge you to retain the moratorium until at least 2013.

Yours faithfully



Kathryn L. Boyle

