

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 157

Name of Individual/Organisation: Dr Yoland Wadsworth

Date Received: 26 July 2007

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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

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University of Melb.
Submission 157

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12.44

Dear Gus Nossal,

I'm a friend of Rhonda Galbally's → and this threat of GM crop contamination reminds me of the Vich health effort to speak out against food irradiation: another time when ordinary community opinion may have contained important caution regarding an apparent "quick fix" — but which may have untold reverberations in future.

May I urge your committee to exercise all power in the interests of caution.

Please see end.

Kind regards,
Glen W. (Prof)

② of ③

Dear Premier,
Please do not treat my letter as a "form letter" - it says it exactly as I wish and is comprehensive I think GM has been a big mistake and now the facts are coming in, it needs to be properly clipped in the bud in the same way as food irradiation was.

Date: 23 July 2007

Premier Steve Bracks
Office of the Premier
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne 3000

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

Dear Premier,

Thank you for the state ban on commercial Genetically Manipulated (GM) canola since 2003. There will be no going back once the GM crops have contaminated the free crops. 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 bunched 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,

I would appreciate
~~Please send me~~ a written reply to my letter.

Yours sincerely,

Signed:

Name: Yoland WADSWORTH (Dr.)

Free crops
Tharling
Jan
20

5. International News

GREECE EXTENDS BIOTECH BAN

Greece has extended for two more years a ban on GM maize seed MON810
<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8057>

CYPRUS WANTS TO BE DECLARED GM-FREE

Cyprus wants to declare itself a GM-free zone, its agriculture minister said. The country has just passed legislation to place GM food on separate supermarket shelves. A previous attempt to introduce such legislation led the US to threaten Cyprus with the WTO.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=7974>
<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8017>

BRAZIL: JUDGE BANS BAYER'S GM CORN

A federal judge has banned the use of Bayer's GM corn 506285.BY a month after federal biosafety agents approved the product for retail sale. The judge also blocked the official biosafety agency, CTNBio, from approving Monsanto and Syngenta GM corn.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8029>
<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8065>

RUSSIA'S DUMA DRAFTS GM FOOD BAN BILL

The Security Committee of the Russian Duma (the lower house of the Federal Assembly) has drafted a bill banning the production and sale of GM food

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8031>

CANADA: GM FOOD - NO MORE SECRETS

A Canadian MP has tabled a bill that calls for mandatory labelling of GMOs in food
<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8014>

U.S. DAIRIES TO REQUIRE FARMERS TO QUIT rbST

Swiss Premium Dairy (formerly Wengert's) and Rutter's Dairy now require all farmers to supply milk without using Monsanto's GM hormone rbST. Rutter's and Swiss Premium cited pressure from retailers as their reason for going rbST-free.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=8048>

MORE EU STATES WARY ON GM MAIZE

Germany's government is introducing a de facto ban on MON 810. Austria banned the Monsanto maize back in 1999. Hungary outlawed the planting of MON810 seeds in January 2005. The same year, Greece and Poland put restrictions in place against MON 810. Bulgaria's parliament has also indicated support for national restrictions on growing MON 810 maize.

<http://www.gmwatch.org/archive2.asp?arcid=7971>

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