



Secretary: Mike O'Hare  
"Yirragunji"  
Beckom,  
NSW , 2665

ARDLETHAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ph: 02-69782369  
Mob: 0429782189  
Email: [oharem@dragnet.com.au](mailto:oharem@dragnet.com.au)

## **Submission to GM Crop Moratorium Review**

Ardlethan District Council, NSW Farmers, wants the moratorium on GM crops removed as soon as possible.

Our members want to be able to access the benefits of all available plant breeding techniques to enable us to compete on world markets. In the case of Canola, our major competitor, Canada, has been using GM hybrid varieties for the past decade and has made major advances in yield, cost saving, and more recently in canola oil quality, whilst we have lingered behind with lower yielding conventionally bred canola. On top of this the worlds major oilseed crop, soybeans, is dominated by the production of GM soybeans in Nth and Sth America. We have no hope of competing with them without access to the same crop breeding technologies.

The only chance we have to remain competitive is to receive a premium for our non-GM canola. Unfortunately, we haven't been receiving that badly needed premium as our markets are quite happy using GM canola and are not interested in paying premiums for non-GM canola. Studies by ABARE and AOF (Australian Oilseeds Federation) confirm this. The AOF paper titled "Market Implications With GM Canola" quotes Japanese Ministry of Finance figures for canola delivered to Japan and shows that between 1998 and 2004 the average price of Australian canola was US\$291.43 per tonne compared to an average price of US\$292.29 per tonne for Canadian GM canola. Europe has been a destination for non-GM canola, however, the EU has now approved the main Canadian GM varieties for importation.

Ardlethan District Council, NSW Farmers, urge the review panel to recommend that the NSW moratorium on GM crops be lifted so that we can access the best possible canola varieties and regain our competitiveness.