

To: gmcrops.review@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Date: 08/31/2007 04:20PM
Subject: Submission: GM Crop Moratorium Review

The information below was submitted through the GM Crop Moratorium Review form at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/field-crops-pastures/oilseeds/canola/gm/moratorium-submissions>

SUBMISSION

Name : Rod May
Organisation / Company : National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia (NASAA)
Confidential : No
Comments : The National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia (NASAA) wishes to express its opposition to the lifting of the moratorium on GM canola.

It is our belief that the impact on markets for NSW agricultural goods including organic products will be harmed by the association of these products with the presence of GM canola in both the agricultural environment and in the food handling chain.

We do not believe there is sufficient capacity to embargo GM production from conventional or organic production and consumers are aware of this and will lose confidence in the quality of their food purchases. For organic consumers, who have learnt from the report of R McGowan from the Vic DPI in 2004, that their foods are almost completely residue free, the introduction of the ubiquitous GM canola threatens their high level of confidence in organic foods . Our industry is a rapidly growing one world wide and displays strong growth in NSW, partly as a result of the confidence of consumers.

In the handling chain, we observe many areas of risk where commingling of GM and non GM canola can take place, and as such believe that adventitious contamination will result in a lowering of consumer confidence on a domestic level

In the international marketplace, where organic food is exported from Australia, including organic oilseeds, we enjoy a strong reputation despite the shortages of supply arising from drought. Our licensing of organic oilseed producers is held in extremely high regard by importing countries and this is in part due to the known absence of GM canola. The unnecessary introduction of such a crop will destroy our competitive advantage and potentially reduce our market share in favor of large exporting countries where GM canola currently exists

It is our belief that the introduction of GM canola into NSW will damage the short and long term agricultural marketplace for NSW agricultural products.