

Subject: Review of Tasmania's GMO Moratorium
Date: Thursday, 25 April 2019 12:12:05 PM

I have a small Bio-Dynamic/Organic farm on the North West Coast of Tasmania breeding and selling beef cattle. Tasmania's 'clean green' image and the absence of GMO's establishes a ready premium market for my cattle. The farm was Certified Organic/Bio-Dynamic but is no longer certified because of the cost of Certification.

However, I believe farmers have a moral duty to grow products free from synthetic fertilisers, synthetic pesticides and genetically modified organisms (which are banned under Certification). Such an approach, with the right management practices, provides for healthy soils, healthy produce and healthy people and, if there is a premium, a healthier bank account.

Australia leads the world accounting for 45% of the world's certified organic agricultural land (22.69 million hectares of 50.92 million hectares). Tasmania only accounts for 0.01% of this and 4% of certified organic producers*. Tasmania is on the cusp of a boom in organic production. I am aware of several large dairy farms that have obtained, or are in the throes of, obtaining organic certification with a premium market available to them here in the North West and elsewhere in Tasmania. There is also a move by many Producers to change their conventional farming practices to a more sustainable approach.

With the right support by Government the Tasmanian organic industry could expand very quickly adding significant value to our 'clean green' image and providing many jobs in Tasmania around export and internal supply of certified organic products.

It is for these reasons I believe that the GMO Moratorium should be maintained.

John C Casburn

25/4/19

Paull, J. (2017) From Clean @ Green to Organic: Opportunities and Impediments to Achieving an Organic Tasmania: School of Land & Food Conference June 2017