

Subject: GMO Moratorium Review
Date: Friday, 26 April 2019 8:39:26 AM

To whom it may concern,

I would like to add my view that the GMO Moratorium be extended indefinitely as it delivers a real economic advantage to our primary producers.

Not only does it provide a distinct choice to processors, wholesalers, retailers and consumers but it also prevents the threat of cross pollination from GMO crops to established non-GMO crops.

GMO crops also mean higher chemical use as they are sprayed more heavily with less diluted chemicals even though it is done less regularly, that is because GMO crops have the actual herbicides and pesticides spliced into their DNA so that they can withstand a heavier spraying regime to knock out competing weeds which have become more chemical-resistant due to over and mis-use of chemicals in the agricultural sector.

GMO crops and chemicals also create many of the health problems currently plaguing our population, causing the extreme stresses upon our Health System.

In order to protect and properly capitalise on Tasmania's GM-free status the moratorium should be extended to imported animal feed. Exemptions should not be made for pharmaceutical crops or open air field trials due to contamination risks.

As Markos Kyprianou, the EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection has stated:
"There is no flexibility for unauthorised GMOs - these cannot enter the EU food and feed chain under any circumstances."

A survey of countries conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) found that 73% of them have a zero tolerance for unapproved GM varieties.

China has a similar zero tolerance policy for the presence of unapproved GMOs.

To ensure the integrity of Tasmania's GMO moratorium, I also urge the Tasmanian Government to change the definition of 'genetically modified organism' in the Genetically Modified Organisms Control Act 2004 to explicitly include all organisms modified using SDN-1 methods.

In the fifteen years since the moratorium was introduced these concerns have proven to be justified. GM contamination scandals and regulatory failures have plagued countries that have adopted GM crops. These scandals have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars of lost export revenue and costly litigation.

Even Coles and Woolworths refuse to use GMO ingredients in their house brands.

Yours faithfully,
Russell Langfield.

