



Macquarie Oil Co.

**Macquarie Oil Company's
Submission on the review of
Tasmanian's
Genetically modified
organisms (GMO)
Moratorium**

April 2019

Introduction:

Macquarie Oil Company has a significant interest in the GMO status of Tasmania and is pleased to offer our submission for the review.

Macquarie Oil Company is the only commercial Canola seed cold pressing facility in Tasmania. We currently process 4000mt of canola seed per annum and have markets to increase this to 7000mt per annum by the end of 2020.

To understand this submission, you need to know that we refer to grain as the product we process and seed as the product that is planted by our farmers to grow the grain.

Tasmania currently produces around 2000mt of canola grain per year, so there is a significant opportunity to expand the Tasmanian production, to satisfy both Macquarie Oil Company's requirements as well as the needs of any export markets.

The quickest way to grow the Canola Industry in Tasmania would be to introduce GM. This would expose Tasmanian agriculture to much higher yields and higher oil contents and therefore increase the competitiveness of canola in the cropping rotation.

Improvements available through advances in gene technology have the capacity to create a viable canola Industry in Tasmania on a large scale. The efficiencies for Canola grain processing are directly related to high oil content grain.

There is far more economic value for Tasmania to grow and add value to Canola grain locally than to import it.

None of our customers specifically ask for product from GM free Canola.

As a Tasmanian business, we would like to source all our canola grain locally but currently there is insufficient grain grown in Tasmania. Locating, testing and importing grain that meets the current Tasmanian non-GM protocols is time consuming, restrictive and expensive.

The potential markets, both domestic and export, for canola grown in Tasmania require the area to expand from 1000ha to 6000ha. This would be a

significant contribution in helping to get Tasmanian agricultural to the \$10 billion per annum by 2050, particularly if majority of this grain is value added in Tasmania, to continue to supply industries such as dairy, poultry, pigs and aquaculture.

However, if Tasmania continues to be GM free;

Macquarie Oil Company feels that Tasmania is being disadvantaged by the current Adventitious Presence (AP) threshold of 0.01%.

This threshold is almost zero-tolerance compared to the national tolerance of 0.05% and the EU approved tolerance of 0.9%.

Amending the Tasmanian tolerance to the national non- GM standard of 0.05% allows Macquarie Oil Company easier access to a larger supply of interstate grain.

Conclusion:

- Macquarie Oil Company's future viability is dependent on having ready access to local canola grain. The removal of Tasmania's GM status secures a higher yield and oil content.
- If the GM free status remains, it will be imperative that the AP tolerance be increased from 0.01% to the national non-GM tolerance of 0.05% to assist with the importation of grain and seed

