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Submission: GMO Moratorium Review@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

The Pesticide Action Group of Western Australia and Save Our Trees urge the Tasmanian Government to extend the current Moratorium under the GMO Control Act for the following reasons:

- Contrary to the stated objective of the Gene Technology Act 2000, the release of genetically modified organisms into the natural environment due to the growing of GM crops and trees cannot be managed to protect the health and safety of people and their environment.
- Tasmanians should be aware of the Western Australian experience when the WA GM Moratorium was lifted and the organic property of WA farmer, Steve Marsh, was contaminated resulting in the loss of certification, loss of income and a devastating lawsuit between two neighbouring farmers.
- To claim or imply that contamination from the growing of GM crops can be prevented or managed defies nature and is grossly misleading.
- Organic and Biodynamic farmers and consumers are now working closely in the public interest to better protect our environment and health.
- We are opposed to major political parties in Australia and internationally being heavily influenced by industries (and industry donations) that promote government policies and practices with known risks to the health and well-being of populations and their environment.
- We are opposed to increasing urban and agricultural use of pesticides, chemical dependent agriculture and silviculture, including GM crops and GM plantations. The release of documents in lawsuits against pesticide/biotech companies have revealed that GM crops are heavy users (or emitters) of unsustainable and harmful levels of pesticides.
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/aug/23/hawaii-birth-defects-pesticides-gmo>
- Misguided federal trade deals for the importation of increasing levels of cheap agricultural poisons from various countries including China, India, and Indonesia, and the promotion of Roundup Ready or other pesticide resistant GM crops have denied Australians the right to be part of a truly green and sustainable island continent.
- It is regrettable that too many state politicians have ignored their duty of care to the health and well-being of current and future generations, turning a blind eye to the environmental risks, including to biodiversity. **Tasmania has the opportunity to promote its clean, green image and to act in the public and long term interest by extending the GMO Moratorium in perpetuity.**

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