

**SUBMISSION TO THE 2019 REVIEW OF THE MORATORIUM ON GMO'S IN  
TASMANIA**

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Situated as it is, Tasmania is in a unique position geographically to protect itself from invasive pests and diseases and we should be making full use of this advantage to keep our clean green image. If we were to allow the cultivation of GM crops this would irrevocably damage our reputation.

Worldwide there is a steady upward trend in consumer sentiment towards purchasing GM free, organic plant and animal products and Tasmania has many organic producers and permaculture growers. If GM crops were introduced they could destroy these businesses overnight.

- *From Institute for Responsible Technology*
- <http://www.responsibletechnology.org/posts/whole-foods-market-gmo-labeling-announcement-reverberating-through-industry/> article on phenomenal growth in products marked non GM.
- *According to USA Today, "Products that get a 'Non-GMO' verification label see sales spike between 15 percent and 30 percent, said A.C. Gallo, president of Whole Foods." We saw this same dynamic in Europe just before the non-GMO avalanche kicked GMO ingredients out of the continent. Iceland Frozen Foods was the first chain to announce they had eliminated GMOs in late 1998. Their sales shot up, everyone took notice, media coverage then alerted even more consumers about GMO risks, and by April of 1999 the rest of the European food industry followed suit.*

Tasmania producers need to diversify into numerous small businesses; niche markets where non GM production would also add to the premium price for this produce. We cannot compete on bulk commodities and cheap imports; instead we have to create top class wholesome GM free food. If Tasmania were to lift the ban on GMO's many of the importers of our clean green brand would cancel their orders with a considerably negative effect on our economy.

**PROBLEMS WITH CONTAMINATION OF NON GM CROPS BY GM CROPS**

One of the main dangers in allowing GM crops is the fact that giant companies such as Monsanto, once they create a GM crop, can then patent it, ensuring they have a monopoly on its sales and at the same time dramatically decreasing plant diversity. It is the height of stupidity to rely so heavily on only a few GM crops- if one should fail there is then no back-up.

A few years ago there were many occasions when Monsanto sued farmers when the latter's GM free crops were contaminated by Monsanto's GM crops. How unfair was that? Farmers then fought back and some were able to sue Monsanto for contaminating their crops. However Monsanto has now moved the goal posts once again and subsequently retaliated by promising not to sue farmers with the result that farmers can now not sue Monsanto!!

- *APPEALS COURT BINDS MONSANTO TO PROMISE NOT TO SUE ORGANIC FARMERS*
- *More information about PUBPAT's suit against Monsanto's seed patents can be found at [PUBPAT > Monsanto Seed Patents](#).*

### **PROBLEMS WITH CREATION OF SUPER PESTS**

There is also the increasing concern that these GM crops are creating superbugs and super pests.

- <http://www.panna.org/blog/monsantos-superweeds-superbugs> Article from Pesticide Action Network discussing the emergence of super bugs and super pests on GM crops

### **PROBLEMS FACING OUR BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY IF GM CROPS ARE ALLOWED**

The Beekeeping industry here in Tasmania would collapse if GM crops were allowed as bees could not only transfer pollen from GM crops to non-GM crops but also contaminate the honey in their own hives; a disaster, as Tasmania relies on its clean green image when exporting this produce.

### **EFFECTS OF GM CROPS ON BRAND TASMANIA**

According to a statement from Brand Tasmanian Council Inc. dated October 2013 they conclude; *that the potential of any use of GMO products in Tasmania would have an adverse effect on the Tasmanian Brand and as such the Brand Tasmania Council would recommend that the precautionary principle should apply. The GMO moratorium should continue.*

### **SUMMARY**

In the past few days I have heard through the media that the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association do not wish to have the ban lifted and I, myself, fail to see that there is any advantage in allowing GM crops in Tasmania; the disadvantages would far outweigh the advantages.

Therefore I would respectfully request that you maintain the moratorium on GM crops in Tasmania

Estelle Ross March 25<sup>th</sup> 2019

