

Re: The Review of Tasmania's GMO moratorium within the Genetically modified Organisms Control Act 2004

I wish to support extension of the moratorium which is due to expire on 16 November 2019.

My interest is as a resident of Tasmania, a consumer, with a strong interest in perpetuating the recognition that Tasmania's GMO-free status has given to the brand that Tasmania markets internationally and interstate.

GMO-free differentiates Tasmania from many places in the world. And its island state isolation gives a natural advantage in monitoring sea and air entry points.

Preserving the identity of *non*-genetically modified organisms is crucial to the continuation of plant diversity and variety while creating favourable environments for bees and other insects, thus lessening the need for frequent crop spraying.

This concept is successfully marketed in Tasmania for promotion of agri-tourism opportunities, paddock-to-plate experiences, heritage seed production, fine dining venues, cooking schools, farm gate markets, touring trails and so much more. Such activities have expanded the purchasing behaviour of visitors to the state in recent years as significant numbers of consumers visit local regions. Local producers can attest to growth in exports.

All this contributes to Tasmania's reputation as a centre for excellence and supports the continuation of GMO-free status for marketing purposes.

Elizabeth Ruthven

26 April 2019