



TASMANIAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION INC.

www.tasmanianbeekeepers.org.au

President –
Mr Lindsay Bourke

Secretary-
Mrs Maxine Ewington

Email: secretary@tasmanianbeekeepers.org.au

SUBMISSION INTO THE REVIEW OF THE MORATORIUM ON GMO'S IN TASMANIA

The Tasmanian Beekeepers Association (TBA) is the peak body representing the beekeeping industry in Tasmania.

The State affiliated associations include –

- North West Branch Tasmanian Beekeepers Ass Inc
- Northern Branch Tasmanian Beekeepers Ass
- Southern Branch Tasmanian Beekeepers Ass

The TBA supports the continuing moratorium of GMO's in Tasmania as the clean green image is an essential part of marketing Tasmanian products.

In 2017/18 there were 264 registered beekeepers in Tasmania with 22532 hives.

Tasmanian Beekeepers sell honey on the domestic and international markets as Tasmanian GMO free products and any change in this would have a devastating effect on the sales of honey overseas as countries such as Japan, EU, UAE will not allow GMO honey to be imported. GMO free honey allows our apiarist to access new markets and grow sales.

One of our major competitors for honey sales overseas is New Zealand and they market their honey as a GMO free products. Any change in Tasmania's GMO status would severely affect the sales of Tasmanian honey overseas particularly with our emerging Manuka honey industry.

Consumer perception is of importance to the Tasmanian Honey Industry and with consumers wanting a clean and green food product including GMO free honey. We can at the moment compete on the world market but if we lose our GMO status we will lose our marketing edge.

The TBA is against any GMO crops being grown in Tasmania. As an example if GMO poppy crops were grown and the crop was within 3km of the bees and the bees were pollinating or collecting nectar there is every probability that some of the GMO pollen from the poppy will end up in the honey. This would make the honey not eligible to be sent to many countries. GMO pollen getting into the honey is not just for the one time when the bees are working the poppy's pollen but will threaten future honey as the pollen can be stored in the hive and be distributed over several supers (bee boxes) thus making the possibility of having GM honey pollen in many extractions of the honey.

The Tasmanian Government has plans to increase the annual value of the agricultural sector to \$10 billion by 2050 and to achieve this; the agricultural sector will need to grow at more than double the rate experienced over the last 20 years. The level of hives required for pollination each year has substantially increase and with

Government plans to increase the agricultural sector many more hives will need to be available to pollinate. To enable this to happen, beekeepers will need the sales of GMO honey to keep them viable or they would have to increase the cost of pollination to farmers.

SUMMARY-

To maintain a vibrant and long term honey & pollinating industry in Tasmania the Tasmanian Beekeepers Ass strongly opposes any change to the present moratorium of GMO's for the future security of honey production and pollinating.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Bourke', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lindsay Bourke
President