

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

WA PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY ON:

"mechanisms for compensation for economic loss to farmers in Western Australia caused by contamination by genetically modified material, including approaches taken in Western Australia and by other jurisdictions and any other relevant matter."

Dear Committee members. We are concerned by the a history of neglect of Non-GM farmers, possibly even indirect abuse.

1)The deeply flawed 2015 GIWA 2025 Strategy, which set GM farming in WA in motion, and which was drawn up without genuine consultation with GM-free farmers, gave no consideration to unfair financial impacts of inevitable GM contamination on the majority of WA farmers who are GM-free.

2) Similarly with the deeply flawed 2016 Biosecurity Strategy. The stakeholder list was unacceptably narrow, it was biased, and the legality of the Strategy remains in question. GM-free, organic and biodynamic farmers were not represented on the Biosecurity Council at the time of its drafting, and the Strategy denies them proper protection from GM contamination or harm and resulting financial loss. This is unacceptable.

3) Reportedly the previous Barnett Government also denied protection and promise of compensation when formally approached by worried non-GM farmers. This was also unacceptable.

4) It would be wrong for costs to be passed onto consumers, a great many of whom are uninformed / unwitting participants in what is in basically a GM food experiment.

WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE FARMER PROTECTION FUND, the concept which the GM-free alliance of groups have developed to guide the inquiry committee.

The proposed system would provide for no-fault, independently managed, automatic,

