

Environment and Public Affairs Committee
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
West Perth 6005, WA



29th December 2017

Re: Inquiry into compensation in relation to GM crops

To the Committee;

I wish to bring forward my thoughts on this matter as a consumer and member of the community.

The current situation is abhorrent, where farmers that grow either 'Organic' or 'Conventional' crops and have done so for generations can potentially lose, and have lost, a lifetime of hard work in their farming practices, not to mention the financial losses, due to contamination of GMO's.

'Traditional' farming practices must be protected. It is not only morally correct but also necessary to fulfill the demands of vast markets and consumers that demand GM Free products.

I strongly believe that whilst the government must play a leading role in the compensation program to farmers for loss of a GM Free status, after all it was the government that opened the doors to GMO's, the major financial burden should be imposed in the originator of the contamination.

Farmers that chose to grow GMO must be made liable to compensate any other member of the community that incur in damages or loss due to their activities, whether they have followed existing guidelines or not.

It is called "*duty of care*" and applies to all human activities. Farming should be no exception. Just following some, potentially, inadequate safety guidelines should be no exoneration to responsibility.

It is time that this scandalous wrong is made right.

Sincerely,

Miguel Pez