

From:
To: [Environment and Public Affairs Committee](#)
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into mechanisms for compensation for economic loss to farmers in Western Australia caused by contamination by genetically modified material
Date: Wednesday, 7 February 2018 3:02:48 PM

Dear Committee,

I am writing to note that I do not support any new levy on growers or an unnecessary compensation scheme.

I would also like to ensure that the Committee considers the following facts in their deliberations:

1. GM technology has been shown to be safe and effective. Currently the usage of triazine tolerant varieties of Canola crops grown in WA is not sustainable in the near and longer term. Atrazine the main herbicide on the non-GM canola crops is developing resistance at a alarmingly rate to the common weeds of ryegrass and doublegee but in particular the endemic brassica, wild radish, which is a major problem weed in WA. Surveys conducted by AHRI exposes this threat.

Proven techniques developed by The Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI) to combat this inevitable outcome of increased herbicide resistance is to not rely solely on one form of herbicide but to rotate as many as possible to avoid the disastrous agricultural systems breakdown with great economic loss to the WA economy. An increased usage of Atrazine at the labeled rates needed to grow Canola in WA could have an effect on levels of atrazine found in the deeper ground water which is used by Perth. Perth has a increasing reliance on ground water for its growing population so the support of GM technology is essential in the longer term.

2. Lupins is largest of the legume crops grown in WA as is suited to our sandy soils where other break crops are not viable and fail. WA grows the largest quantity of lupins and is home to that all that genetics bank and research knowledge in the world. The crops is successfully grown in WA because of its usage of triazine herbicides. It is important for Lupin growers to have access to roundup-ready Canola technology so not to overuse the triazine herbicide in their farming systems. Overuse of non-GM Triazine tolerant Canola herbicides in that cropping rotation will lead to collapse of Lupin industry at great loss to the WA economy due to unsubstantial triazine resistance weed populations. The much documented benefits of lupins as a legume in our rotational farming system acknowledges its essential to support it in our farming systems The fledgling organic grain industry will fail also due to increased populations of weeds making it impossible for them to grow organic crops as well

3. GM technology has been used globally in agriculture and a range of other fields for decades

4. Other countries have GM and non-GM growers, side by side, without the need for levy schemes or compensation

Consumers who wish not to consume non-GM products, which are proven to yield less and have a generally higher cost of production are entitled to do so but please don't deny those happy to chose and consume GM produced products by the imposition of levies or penalize a commodity that has proven to co-exist around the world. Consumers of non GM products should not be subsidized by those people who are generally on less disposable income who are happy with the integrity of food produced using GM technologies

5. Currently WA farms grow enough food to feed 60-70 million people mostly those in the near SE Asian region. Our geographical location and climate is ideal for dry land crop production. We have a international responsibility to provide food for the increasingly SE Asian populations at a cost that enables those countries to feed their people. The development of GM technology has meant we as farmers can reach the productivity gains needed to meet this increased global demand for food. Those countries have a larger majority of their people in poverty so the WA farmers costs of production also needs to be low. A lot of the SE Asian people use 80% of their disposable income (\$5-10 US per day) on food where our affluent Australian society is less than 20%. GM technology is the major tool used by our farms to meet our global responsibility to "feed the world" cheaply as possible now and into the future.

Kind regards,

Clancy Michael