

From:
To: [Environment and Public Affairs Committee](#)
Subject: Farmer Protection from GM Contamination
Date: Thursday, 15 February 2018 5:25:29 PM
Attachments: [Principles for Farmer Protection Legislation 4218.doc](#)

Dear Environment and Public Affairs Committee,
Hon. Matthew Dean Swinbourn MLC
Hon. Colin James Holt MLC
Hon. Samantha Helen Rowe MLC
Hon. Timothy (Tim) James Clifford MLC
Hon. Dr Steven (Steve) Caldwell Thomas MLC

Terms of Reference:

Inquire into and report 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.

Submission:

I am a consumer of food, as is everyone else and as I am concerned that the process of the production of quality food which has high consumer demand and commands premium prices is not compromised by what I see is second-rate mass-produced food with dubious means of production. I want to be able to afford and source good clean food not just now but also in years to come when I hopefully have grandchildren. Being a forward thinker, I also want my grandchildren's grandchildren to be able to source affordable organic and locally sourced food.

I am very concerned that genetically engineered crops could infiltrate the environment and traditional crops with unforeseen consequences. Good intentions by the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations in 1935, introduced the cane toad to Queensland to control the cane beetle. Not only did the cane toads not control the beetles as the beetles climbed and the toads stayed on the ground, but the toads also evolved to become bigger, stronger and have longer legs. The toads are a pest that has reached the Kimberley in Western Australia, and we are told it is only a matter of time before the toads establish in the southern half of Western Australia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cane_toads_in_Australia

We are in a fool's paradise if we as a society have not learnt from the Cane Toad disaster. The problem I see is not that all gene technology is wrong or Frankensteinian simply that we as a society have not enough caution when considering the value of quick, consistent crops versus what is good food that won't add to the health budget in the longer term. Gene technology is not a one size fits all scenario as each type is as individual as the plant,

