

## **GM Canola – Press release from the National Association of Sustainable Agriculture in Australia(WA)**

Following our meeting with representatives of the WA Government this week, I would like to report the following:

1. The government's policy was written by a GMO company executive.
2. The Government clearly stated they were not concerned with any GMO health or environmental issue, saying it was a Federal responsibility.
3. The government is not liable for any financial loss to anyone due to GM contamination issues and subsequent market loss, saying farmer would have to battle farmer under common law.
4. Their GM stance is based purely on commercial considerations - not on health or environmental concerns and certainly not on public opinion.
5. The Agriculture Minister has clearly stated he will override any shire that tries to exercise its democratic right to remain GM free.
6. The Minister rejected the suggestion of a public forum to democratically discuss the issue.

Given this astounding litany of conflict of interest, blatant refusal to include strict health protocols in GM policy making and complete disregard for the potential for terrible legal mayhem in the agricultural community, I call on this government, on behalf of all members of our association as well as the growing thousands of justifiably alarmed West Australians to:

1. Hold a referendum asking the WA public if they want GM canola to be planted in this state – no loaded questions either.
2. Hold it at the same time as the daylight saving referendum, making it a cost neutral exercise.

Only this way will the government regain any credibility on the GM issue.

Kim Hack – President NASAA WA