

The Project Team - Review of the moratorium on GMOs in Tasmania (2013)

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

GPO Box 44, Hobart TAS 7001

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**Submission on the Review of the Moratorium on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in Tasmania (2013)**

GM technology incorporated into food has still not been proven safe for human ingestion. Intergenerational problems cannot as yet be identified in humans as GM science is not that old, but problems are being identified both acutely and chronically in animal studies. Ingestion of meat from animals fed GM containing food also cannot be assumed to be safe.

The Institute of Science in Society is a not for profit organisation dedicated to providing critical and accessible scientific information to the public and to promoting social accountability and ecological sustainability in science and has recently produced a report providing a comprehensive overview of the dangers of GM agriculture.

I submit this report as the basis for my submission on the inadvisability of allowing Tasmania to utilise GM technology:

[http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Ban\\_GMOs\\_Now\\_-\\_Special\\_ISIS\\_Report.php](http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Ban_GMOs_Now_-_Special_ISIS_Report.php)

Tasmania is a small island state that has hereto maintained its GM-free status.

Being an island means we can remain GMO free with no cross-state contamination by wind blow/ pollination etc from other States. There is no going back to a GM-free status once GM crops are introduced.

Tasmania is increasingly supplying and filling niche markets for high quality food produce that attracts attractive financial rewards and incentives.

Continuing with this marketing strategy and increasing Tasmanian branding would seem economically sensible for businesses; a model that should be developed to increase top-end quality marketing for Tasmanian produce.

DPIPWE has identified (issues paper 2012) that 55% of the current processed value of foods and beverages are or could be differentiated and sold as Tasmanian branded product.

*Tasmania's Place in the Asian Century White Paper* identified that:

- a. *“Demand is likely to grow for high quality and niche products as well, with a growing proportion of fish, meat and dairy. The growing number of Asian high-income households will be an important focus for Tasmania's premium products, such as seafood, cherries and wine.”*

Food-stuffs for both human and animal consumption are both marketed for their GM-free status. The role of bees in crop pollination and honey production rely on Tasmania's GM-free status for the sale of these products, and the on-going health of the bees.

Tasmania does of course have to fight for its own markets and a GM-free status is one of the sole remaining areas that Tasmania can proudly lay claim to.

Therefore, for agricultural, economic and health reasons, I submit that it is imperative that Tasmania remains GM-free.

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TPEHN Tasmanian Public and Environmental Health Network

[http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Pollution Information Tasmania#Tasmanian Public and Environmental Health Network .28TPEHN.29](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Pollution_Information_Tasmania#Tasmanian_Public_and_Environmental_Health_Network_.28TPEHN.29)