

Submission.

To the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs, WA Parliament.

Inquiry into 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 other relevant matters.

Submission by Rose Marsh, the mother of Stephen Marsh, and I am writing to you in regards the inquiry coming up soon in the West Australian parliament on compensation being applied to farmers or individuals affected by the growing of GM crops.

I feel because of my closeness with the Marsh/Baxter G M Contamination case and seeing firsthand the effects a bad decision can have on family's & friends, I would urge you to please think your decision thru thoroughly before making recommendations on this matter.

I feel the former Agriculture Minister Terry Redman at the time rushed thru his decision to grow G.M crops without thinking thru the consequences even though they had been brought to his attention.

I am well aware, being a Farmer's Daughter before becoming a Farmer's wife that sometimes changes have to be made to farming practices and we all hope it will be the right ones. It is very frustrating when there are decisions made which affect people's livelihoods and farms by the very ones we put into power to do the best for us, eventually proved to be the wrong ones and we are left to deal with the future effects (Sometimes for many years) of a bad decision. So I urge you to decide wisely as you debate this GMO matter.

I feel this has not happened in the G.M Canola Contamination Marsh/Baxter case as there were no regulations put into place in case of contamination which is what happened. This would have protected both Stephen and Michael at the time.

As there are laws regarding other contamination issues such as smoke damage and spray drift particularly {dicamba} to the wine industry which I understand has a 10km buffer between vineyards and chemical farmers also we as farmers have to contain fires and our livestock. It seems strange that regulations in regards to the growing of G.M which many did not understand was allowed to pass so quickly without these safety measures put in place to protect Farmers who wished to grow non-gm crops.

I think there should be rules brought in so compensation is to be paid if it affects ones livelihood or contaminates their property as it has done in the case of my son Stephen Marsh. After all when you look at the big picture He is not the only one this issue has affected but not everyone has the strength or ability to fight and will walk away. It is sad to see the affects today of this wrong decision is still affecting his life and livelihood and also friends and neighbors in the district. It still amazes me after all this time to be stopped by strangers in the street to be told that Stephen has their support 100% as they think the decision unjust at the time.

I can only hope good will come out of this with the fact we are now all more aware of the dangers and heartache contamination of G.M.O can cause.

I urge you to consider the many Conventional & Organic farmers whom I feel should be protected against this happening in the future, and again please choose, wisely.

Rose Marsh

9-2-2018