

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: Monday, 12 February 2018 8:06:24 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 ask that the Committee considers the following facts in their deliberations:

1. GM technology has been shown to be safe and effective. From research across the internet I have been unable to find one single study that scientifically shows any doubt as to the safety of GM technology.
2. GM technology has been used globally in agriculture and a range of other fields for decades, In America 94% of soybean, 96% of cotton and 93% of corn were GM in 2014.
3. Other countries have GM and non-GM growers, side by side, without the need for levy schemes or compensation and we also have growers who live side by side and co-exist in a harmonious way.

As quickly found on the DPIRD website in excess of 30% of growers have adopted GM technology, showing the commercial viability of this system and the ability for GM and Non GM growers to successfully co-exist. Indeed on our own farm we currently grow both GM and Non GM successfully side by side.

In the Northern Ag Region of Western Australia we have some of the most herbicide resistance weeds in the state. GM Canola adds another tool to the tool box in the war against weeds.

We have stable markets available for our crops and we have prices that make it commercially viable to grow this crop. If markets did not want the crop they would not pay us a price that was commercially viable.

Please consider these points before imposing another cost upon an industry that already suffers from red tape.

Kind regards,

Ben Cripps
Wepowie Farming Co