

From:
To: [Environment and Public Affairs Committee](#)
Subject: Inquiry for Compensation for economic loss to WA farmers caused by GM material
Date: Friday, 16 February 2018 6:00:15 AM

Greetings

The case of Kojonup farmer, Steve Marsh, demonstrates that the rights of non-GM farmers are not protected in WA. Surely a farmer should be protected from GM contamination, even if GM farmers outnumber non GM farmers

GM seed is not selective as to where it contaminates. Protection also needs to be provided for roadsides, national parks and all public spaces.

Consumers have never sought GM food. Surveys show a high percentage do not want to eat it. So, until long term, independent studies can demonstrate it is safe to eat, consumers will remain wary of it. As a result GM markets will remain limited and GM free products will continue to sell at a premium. Our state faces increased GM contamination if a law protecting farmers' rights is not introduced, with a subsequent loss of markets and profits.

The state is in a difficult situation. There needs to be a moratorium on growing of GM until a strict liability system is in place. If our state is anything like other parts of the world where GM is grown, there will already be considerable contamination which has yet to become evident. How will this be addressed?

The new law must be simple and enforceable so a farmer can bring a claim without the need of lawyers. The biotech industry is aggressive and will be determined not to lose the powerful position they have established in WA. The law needs to be strong enough to withstand their attacks.

Thanking You in Anticipation

John Brendan Tate