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Independent candidate for Roe

See: www.no-till.com.au

My History: I was raised at Gairdner, south of Jerramungup, on a War Service farm and am one of 10 children. I attended the local school and after completing a bachelors degree in agriculture I returned to Jerramungup to research and promote no-tillage with the Department of Agriculture.

I am now a private consultant and travel globally to speak on no-tillage. I have taken 130 farmers and scientists around the world to see how others farm. I lived in Canada in 1996, the same year that I won the Individual Landcarer Achiever award for WA. I am an honorary life member of wantfa (Western Australian No-Tillage Farmers Association).

I married Monique in 1986 and we have four energetic children, the eldest is now entering university. We all play sport, love the ocean and the flora of our nature reserves. I was President of the Esperance and Districts Basketball Association in 1993 and Secretary of the Jerramungup Basketball Association in 1987. We hold to the Christian faith and Monique was acting pastor in the Gum Tree Christian Fellowship of Esperance over Christmas 2004.

Why am I standing for Roe? I love the Roe region, having spent most of my life there, being with the wind-hardened and friendly people. I would represent them and their region wholeheartedly. I am a tenacious person determined to see free enterprise, integrity and innovation encouraged which, in turn, gives our youth jobs and security. I also believe in finding practical and innovative ways of guiding the depressed to a hope for life that is within their reach.

I would like to see the Esperance region become an area of excellence in sustainable agriculture. At present I believe that sustainable agriculture is under threat from groups like Greenpeace, NCF and PETA. I believe we need to be progressive. As Esperance was a pioneer in the adoption of no-tillage, now I hope it will become a pioneer in the adoption of GMs. Without GM technology we will see more stubble burning and a return of wind erosion. We will become less competitive than the rest of the world who increased their GM plantings by 20% last year.

From my world travels, and research I have seen, farmers grab GMs with both hands and not look back. GMs are essential to sustainable agriculture. GM plants are more rigorously tested and are safer for humans and animals than conventionally bred plants. GMs allow us to kill resistant weeds with 60-80% less herbicide. The GM herbicide 'Liberty' is a new mode of action on all weeds and is safe on the environment and the farmer. In dry seasons Liberty and Roundup Ready will give excellent weed control. They also give a 20-30% yield advantage. This issue is serious for the sustainability of farmers, our land and for our rural communities.

In Summary - I stand for:

- Aiding the adoption of GM technology for sustainable and prosperous agriculture
- A “clean and green” agriculture that is less reliant on chemicals - less Atrazine use
- Progress and prosperity of the region with careful attention to our fragile environment
- The belief that all people should be listened to before tough decisions are made
- Integrity and free will of the human spirit

Specific GM proposal: I would work towards the Esperance region gaining access to GM canola for the 2006 season. For 2005 I would promote canola trials for the region so that farmers can see the value of these crops. Initially, I would propose that the region be divided by the natural line of Ravensthorpe - with bush to the north and south. I would hold a series of meetings with the local communities by bringing credible people into the region with a series of seminars.

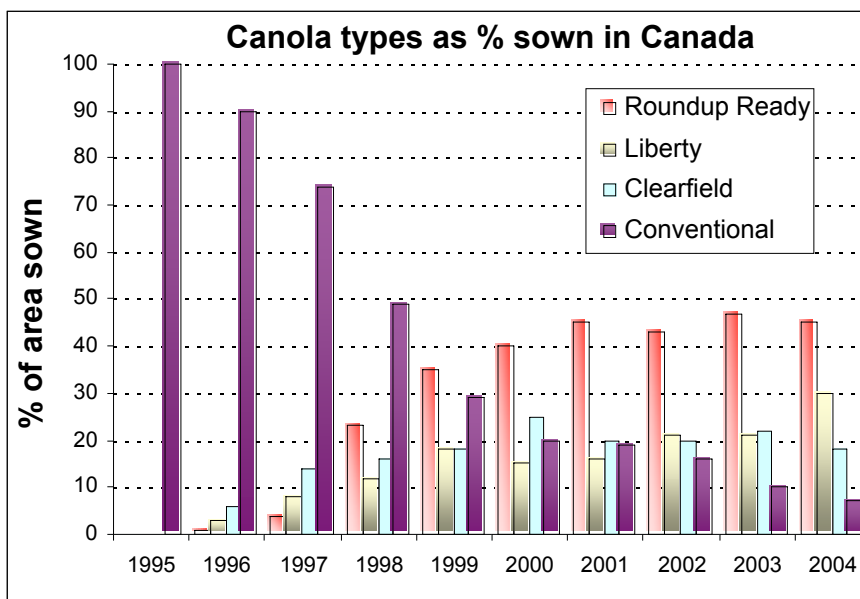
My Preferences: I have chosen my preferences according to which parties will be most responsive and responsible with the adoption of the safe and proven GM technology.

STEVE LEEDER	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS	4
CHARLES JOHSTON	ONE NATION WA	5
RON SAO	LABOR	7
LOUISE LODGE	GREENS	6
DR GRAHAM JACOBS	LIBERAL	2
BILL CRABTREE	INDEPENDENT	1
JANE MCMEIKEN	NATIONAL	3

Vote 1
Bill Crabtree
 Independent for
 Roe



Right: In October 2004, eleven WA farmers inspected a Bayer GM canola trial at Horsham. We were impressed, there was perhaps a doubling in yield with their GM.



Left: If GM canola was not offering huge benefits to Canadian farmers then why are they embracing it wholeheartedly? Including 20-30% better yield.

Graph data from JoAnne Buth Vice President, Crop Production Canola Council of Canada.

For the 2005 year in Canada, Monsanto released a Roundup Ready with a special oil - it was sold out in one week.