

How much more anti-GM propaganda?

Letter by Bill Crabtree, 13th May 2005

Yet again Julie Newman asserts nonsense (*Countryman* 12th May)! There is a 30% proven grain yield increase with GM canola, along with less pesticides, less stubble burning, less green house gases etc. Julie is holding WA farmers back by \$170 million per year with her propaganda which the naive Minister Kim Chance and WAFarmers are believing and propagating!

If only they could visit Canada (like I have three times) and talk to their Departments, their average to best farmer, their Departments of Agriculture, their CSIRO equivalent and the Canadian Canola Council - then they would realise that their fears are without foundation. Canadians have been selling premium GM canola oil into the EU for a financial premium for several years. There is currently no price penalty for GM canola and I am confident there never will be - it is more likely to go the other way, as it has now for Canada.

How embarrassing to have such an innovative state of WA put on hold for so long with the cleanest and greenest and most profitable agricultural technology available. WA farmers are being held to ransom by a women representing only a few - how many? Silence! Canadian GM canola will likely be greater than 80% of their canola crop in 2005 and we have to compete with this. Canadians now also have Roundup Ready hybrid canola - see the Department of Agriculture's websites in Canada.

The 30% yield advantage is a mathematical fact with hybrid GM canola. TT canola yields 15% less than conventional canola which is then 15% less yield than hybrid canola's. This is a 30% yield difference between TT canola and GM hybrids and is proven and acknowledged worldwide. This result has also been independently proven locally, no matter how many times Julie says it is not - it is a mathematical and practical fact.