

Dear Kim,

I read with interest your comments in the West Australian today (11th August 2005). It seems to me that you have set your course on continuing to stall GM, without evidence, and with rhetoric that is false in essence. Please allow me to explain.

You say we need further research - but your policy halts this! No company can afford to research in the stifled conditions of the future GM bans that you have imposed. What research do we need? Did you receive the research material that I sent you after you requested it? You are aware that bread, cheese, beer, wine and insulin for WA has been GMed for nearly 10 years - we all participate in some of these daily with no ill effects. The overwhelming public and farmer opinion in WA is not as you believe - you are being misled. The two lead WA farmer groups both acknowledge that it is time to move ahead, it has taken WAFF some time to read the vibes - but they are now ready and the time is right to move forward. At least with an experiment in Esperance in 2006.

Canadians have regained their European market access with specialty oils that are GM - we now have no market access advantage. To be blunt - what you say is simply not true. See Max Fosters comments in the West today - the same comments he has made publicly for 2-3 years that there is no premium for non-GM canola. There is though a 30% grain yield advantage for GM canola (15% for not being TT and 15% for hybrids) and weeds are steadily getting "out of control" - I speak from first-hand experience. Farmers are reverting to ploughing (un-doing no-tillage soil improvements) and the match is put into stubbles to burn some extra ryegrass and to help trifluralin to work and increasing green house gases and exposing the soil to wind erosion (Mothers Day 2004). You know this all to be true - we have talked these issues through - face to face. What you said today is simply to "hide behind the skirts" of radical activists and greenies.

I believe the farmer and scientist ground-swell for GMs is becoming increasingly vocal as they see themselves slipping behind the rest of the world. I can already see your "Bell Tower" for the bush already half built. Destroy it now and stand up to the greens (and labour greens) and make WA farmers less reliant on spraying their families and farms with chemicals by adopting the GM is clean and green approach - as the rest of the progressive world is doing. Plowing and stubble burning for ryegrass control is not clean and green - yet this is what your policy is forcing us to do. No doubt you witnessed first-hand the massive GM adoption in South America with Argentina 97% GM soybean (last month on your visit) - our canola competes with theirs on the world market. How is the market access going for their GMs? Please Kim you must listen to those you represent out in the bush - you are not a city politician - you know our issues and you know what we need - please have the courage to do what is best for us, our children, our soil, our rural communities and our livelihoods?

Sincere regards.

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