

## **Kimberly Echo – Letter to the Editor**

Sent 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Dear Sir,

Minister Chance yet again misleads WA agriculture with his attack on Barry Haase on 22nd Feb (Kimberly Echo). It is Mr Chance who needs to seek and learn from expert advice. He continually ignores advice from world class scientists (local and international) and even from his own expert staff within his Dept of Agric. His way-ward ideology is causing missed financial opportunity in the Ord (and the SW) with his ban on world best practice in GM crop technology. Such technology is clean and green.

Mr Chance's staff have shown a 4-fold profit increase with GM cotton pending his approval on GM cotton. He is the gate-keeper; he does not need to wait for an application from the locals to approve it. If they did go through the tortuous path to request GM cotton he would stifle anyway with his endless political tactics and committee stalling scheming as he has shown he is a classic "Yes Minister, Minister". Kim has set up two GM groups and neither are going anywhere to address Kim's concerns with GM and they are not transparent either.

Mr Chance is wrong when he says that Queensland is the only state growing GM crops. All states, that can grow GM cotton, are indeed growing GM cotton (Qld and NSW), except for WA. Chance only needs to open the gate, he needs no request to do so. Such a request he would stifle anyway. Kim has stated in Hansard that GM crops will not get into WA because markets reject them, they are unsafe to eat, legal liability etc. All these reservations have been proved false and sadly, he knows all this.

This is a sad state of affairs. My personal experience with "Hon" Chance is that he cares nothing for the facts on GMs or prosperity for the rural community. He seems to care only for his own political survival, like many of his other state Labor politicians. I suspect that bypassing Chance, as a vote of no confidence, and going to Carpenter may produce more fruit.