

# Open Letter to the Prime Minister the Hon John Howard

He would love to hear from you at: 3 National Circuit BARTON, ACT, 2600 or Ph: (02) 6277 7700 Fax: (02) 6273 4100, and Mr Mark William Latham at: P.O. Box 191, INGLEBURN, NSW, 1890 or Ph: (02) 9829 7477 Fax: (02) 9829 7499, and your Premier, where the addresses can be found at [www.snakeshow.net](http://www.snakeshow.net).

Dear Mr Howard,

Most Australians didn't know 'The Gene Technology Act' was passed in 2000. It came into force 21/06/2001.

Power was given to the Gene Technology Regulator (GTR) to give licences to chemical companies to grow genetically engineered crops in Australia. The Government and the Opposition have set it up so that the GTR, Dr Sue Meek, cannot be challenged over her decisions, meaning there is no appeal; unless we change the law.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2003, Dr Sue Meek, the GTR issued the licence as a blank cheque for GE canola growers to contaminate Australia with foreign genes and toxic chemicals from May 2004. In the US, farmers get only 3 years of modest weed reductions with 'Roundup Ready Canola', then, herbicide use begins to increase. Australia's clean GE/GM free crops will be contaminated with their patented pollen, and the law is set up so that those farms that are contaminated must bare the costs, and those that contaminate go free to destroy our gene pools. Insurance Companies will not insure against mishap with this new technology, so who's being paid off?

The Future of Genetically Engineered Crops (GE/GM Crops) is to: -

- 1). Force our children to buy chemicals/drugs for their food plants forevermore.
- 2). Wipe out organic food forever; so bad luck to those with food allergies.
- 3). Slowly but surely destroy, our 'small family farms' in favour of 'giant broad acre corporate farms'.

The US farmers find it harder and harder to sell their GE/GM produce to the world. This is precisely because the pollen produced from such crops is patented, the plants are chemical/drug dependent and people don't want to eat genetically engineered food. Because of the patents, farmers cannot legally save their seeds without paying royalties to the drug companies that own this pollen. In the US and Canada this pollen is on the move and cannot be stopped. Mr Prime Minister, have you warned our Australian farmers about this?

Mr Howard, the following sentiments are being echoed around Australia and getting louder.

- 1) "We do not want the Giant Drug Companies to control our plants and food."
- 2) "We want to keep Australia as a 'Clean Seed Bank' for our children's future."
- 3) "The world is looking for clean food, and that market will go on forevermore."
- 4) "All processed food must carry a label of content. Why are 'GM Foods' not labelled?"
- 5) "If companies can afford to genetically engineer our food, then they can afford to label it."
- 6) "Insurance companies will not touch GM Crops, why? How responsible is it to force this upon us?"
- 7) "Why do you want to destroy our children's genetic heritage of 'broadly based gene pools' with 'patented genetically engineered pollen'?"
- 8) "Why do you perpetuate the lie that this technology is to feed a starving world?" The world is learning that it is a lie from cuckoo land. This technology is about selling chemicals. That is what chemical companies do.

**Remember that once this genetically engineered pollen is out we are contaminated forever.** As each year passes the pollen will continue to spread, so what is this nonsense of 5 metres between crops to stop the pollen flow? Where do you and the Gene Technology Regulator (GTR) stand on that little issue?

Mr Howard, any High School Student can verify this biology, and Biology Teachers say that it is very simply explained. Instead of listening to genetic engineers, it might be time you listened to our biologists and botanists who don't work for the drug companies and listen to the Union of Concerned Scientists with 60000 members.

Mr Howard, it is your responsibility as our Prime Minister to learn about: -

- Broadly Based Gene Pools,
- The Terminator & Traitor Genes,
- Vavilov Centres.

If planting of GE/GM canola goes ahead in May 2004, it means our kids have been sold out to a foreign power.

For our children's future this issue must be revisited now!

Those supporting the Gene Technology Act, which gives too much power to the GTR, are those who are quite prepared to sell out our children's plant heritage to the chemical companies. What is more important to you Mr Howard, the Drug Companies, or our children's genetic heritage? If you have the stuffing to revisit and recant on this madness you will receive credit. Sell out on our kids, and you are not my Prime Minister.

Federico Rossignoli – Fred the Snakeman

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