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Gene Ethics: Media Release 16/01/08 Brumby guts GM crop ban

"The Brumby government guts its GM crop ban by letting Bayer Cropscience grow Genetically Manipulated (GM) herbicide tolerant canola now," says Gene Ethics Director, Bob Phelps.

"Bayer is rolling out its GM canola with Brumby's blessing, before the February 28 deadline when the GM ban must be extended.

Bayer is growing herbicide tolerant GM canola at five sites in the Glenelg Shire (see Gene Ethics' map attached). Sites across the border in South Australia are also expected soon.

"The five so-called trials, grown under exemptions from the GM crop ban, are for commercial seed production," Mr Phelps says.

"State Agriculture Departments only issue GIS co-ordinates so families, farmers and beekeepers are kept in the dark.

"Yet beekeepers must guarantee to honey traders that their hives were at least 5 kms from any GM site and non-GM farmers' crops can be contaminated by pollen and seed.

"The plants should be removed before they flower, to prevent irreversible contamination.

"This is why GM crop registers and the full labelling of all animal feed will be absolutely essential if commercial GM canola goes ahead.

"The present crop sites are also part of Bayer's strategy to force GM canola onto South Australia where the GM ban will be extended in April.

"The rights of councils along the border to remain GM-free are being trampled by Bayer and Brumby.

"The councils of Grant (Mt Gambier), Tatiara, Naracoorte/Lucindale, Wattle Ranges and West Wimmera all have GM-free policies that reflect the strong support of their communities.

"And all Australian governments should resolve to stay GM-free as the majority of Australians want," Mr Phelps concludes.

More comment: 03 9347 4500

GM CROPS IN VICTORIA – Summer 2007- 8

Patent owner : Bayer Cropscience

The location of GM canola crops currently being cultivated in Victoria under the Exemption Order issued on 2 May 2007 (Gazette S95), pursuant to s[6] of the Control of Genetically Modified Crops Act 2004.

Site location	Nearest town	GPS- Northing	Easting
Smiths Road	1. Strathdownie	54 H 5 822 879	UTM 0 500 470
Puralka School Road	3. Strathdownie	54 H 5 816 863	UTM 0 506 434
Bowds Road	2. Strathdownie	54 H 5 820 513	UTM 0 501 855
Ridge Road	4. Mumbannar	54 H 5 810 355	UTM 0 506 294
Palpara Settlement Road	5. Mumbannar	54 H 5 802 234	UTM 0 506 568

Planted approx November-December 2007, under irrigation. Flowering Jan-Feb 2008

Details current 13-1-07 This information is from Department of Primary Industries website
<http://www.nre.vic.gov.au/DPI/nrenfa.nsf/fid/CC118721F8CE5147CA2573A9001B3FA2>

