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## **News Media Release**

### **Brumby to extend the GM canola ban**

**Melbourne, Thursday February 28, 2008: At Noon today, hundreds of protesters from various citizen groups will rally on the steps of Parliament House. They will call on Premier Brumby to extend the ban on commercial Genetically Manipulated (GM) herbicide tolerant canola for five more years at least.**

**“Brumby seems hell-bent on allowing the GM canola ban to expire tonight, ignoring the majority of farmers, food processors and shoppers who want our farms and foods to stay GM-free,” says Gene Ethics director Bob Phelps.**

**“It would only take him a minute to insert a new date into the executive order today.**

**“Last November, when announcing the GM canola ban would expire, Brumby claimed the state’s economy would benefit by just \$115 million over 8 years (\$15 million pa).**

**“That’s peanuts compared to the costs that citizens of this state will bear in lost markets, GM testing, transport, segregation and weed management, etc.**

**“Canadian experience shows Bayer (world’s biggest agro chemical company) and Monsanto (world’s biggest seed company) will capture over 90% of any profits by collecting maximum royalties and fees on patented GM canola seed and weed killers.**

**“Yet the state kowtows to these GM giants that will not even be liable for the inevitable damage to public health, the environment or markets that GM canola will cause.**

**“Brumby ignores the immediate, permanent and irreversible impacts of GM canola on the spurious promise of drought tolerant plants and fart-free pastures to solve global climate change in 10 years time, if ever.**

**“We want Brumby to join with the other states and extend the ban. If he still refuses we will carry the GM-free campaign up to the next election,” Mr Phelps concludes.**