

## **Gene Ethics - News Media Release CONFIRMED: GM CANOLA IS A WEED**

**Melbourne, April 2 2008: New Swedish research just published confirms that GM canola contamination will be permanent and irreversible. GM canola is a weed as its seed can lie dormant and germinate up to 10 years after it is planted on a site.**

"Even worse, scientists confirm that GM canola will transfer Roundup herbicide tolerance to related brassicas that are already troublesome weeds in Australian environments," says Gene Ethics Director Bob Phelps.

"Wild radish, wild turnip and charlock that get the GM gene for Roundup resistance will be superweeds that will be expensive for farmers, councils, park managers, and gardeners to manage.

"Weed management costs Australia \$3-4 billion pa already, money that is sorely needed to restore our degraded environments.

"Yet the Victorian and NSW governments have ended their GM bans, allowing Monsanto and Bayer to sell seed from the plant equivalent of the cane toad.

"These governments should reimpose their bans on GM canola as the costs outweigh any conceivable benefits.

"Australia's Office of Gene Technology Regulator was fully aware of this weed problem, yet issued licences in 2003 for the unrestricted commercial release of herbicide tolerant GM canola seed.

See: <http://www.ogtr.gov.au/pdf/ir/brassica.pdf> Pages 9 & 25

Professor Mark Westoby's comments at:

<http://www.aussmc.org/GMseedpersistence.php> confirm the need for the OGTR to at least publicly reassess the licences for herbicide tolerant GM canola before it is allowed to be sold anywhere," Mr Phelps concludes.

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