Cropwatch Media Release - Tuesday November 25, 2008
GM canola contamination at Horsham

GM Cropwatch's Jessica Harrison today found Genetically Manipulated (GM) canola plants heaped up on the roadside near the Natimuk/Rudolph's Rd junction, 5 minutes from Horsham. Galahs were also seen feasting on GM canola last week.

“The windrowed canola plants blew off Geoff Rethus' farm and are 75 metres across the road,” Ms Harrison says.

“Agriculture Minister Joe Helper must apply strict pollution laws to this GM harvest, monitor and manage all the GM sites and clean up this GM contamination.

“He must also ensure that all GM canola cut for hay is used where it stands or is destroyed, instead of spreading viable seed across the country-side.

Cropwatch has monitored and tested for GM canola spills on roadsides and farms around Horsham and the Lubeck silo for the past two weeks.

Geoffrey Carracher of the Network of Concerned Farmers warned that: "After windrowed canola is cut and laid down to dry, wind gusts often lift up whole rows and dump the plants meters or even miles away.

But Joe Helper told the ABC that Cropwatch was: “over the top”, GM canola spread was “not an issue” and: "The industry has a strong record of … segregation with any crop.

“Although just fifteen farmers will deliver GM canola to the Lubeck silo this year, GM contamination is now rampant,” Geoffrey Carracher says.

“Helper and Brumby have thumbed their noses at the GM-free majority, allowing Monsanto and a handful of GM cowboys to threaten all rural industries that require their markets to be GM-free.

“Cleanup is possible now but Monsanto's plans could make GM canola contamination irreversible next year.

"Monsanto's segregation guidelines are just window-dressing, as compliance is voluntary, unmonitored and unenforceable,” Ms Harrison says.

“The GM industry intends to make GM contamination irreversible here as they did in Canada within two years. Farmers and grain handlers found it impossible to segregate GM canola.

“The Victorian and NSW Governments must also heed Tasmanian lessons, where GM contamination led their government yesterday to ban GM canola until 2014 at least.

"We call for the GM canola ban to be reinstated immediately,” Ms Harrison concludes.

More comment:	**Jessica Harrison**	**GM Cropwatch**	**0407 307 231**
	Geoffrey Carracher	**NCF**	**5386 6261**
	Pictures available on request		