

## **Gene Ethics Media Release Sunday 7/12/08 GM-free rally at Rudd Community Cabinet in Geelong**

**Sunday 7/12/08, Corio: GM-free food and crop supporters rally at Kevin Rudd's community cabinet at Corio on Sunday. They call on the ALP government to implement its pre-election promises on Genetic Manipulation.**

"Since being elected, Rudd government ministers have slavishly promoted GM crops and foods, against the policies they promised in opposition," says Gene Ethics Director Bob Phelps.

"From his first day as Agriculture Minister, Tony Burke has backed GM crops and foods as the answer to global climate change, feeding the world and drought.

"He uses these empty claims to justify lavish government support for countless research and development projects that are doomed to fail.

"Over the past 25 years, the Commonwealth has sunk billions of dollars into GM with little to show for it and we want the reviews that were promised," he says.

"Burke brands GM-free supporters as superstitious and anti-science, yet we are calling for the tougher, more objective scientific assessments of GM crops and foods that were promised.

"Burke refuses to meet us so we will greet him at the community cabinet," Mr Phelps says.

"Health Minister Nicola Roxon and her deputy Jan McLucas have also failed to deliver on the ALP's pre-election promises," says Cropwatch's Jessica Harrison.

"They have taken no action toward comprehensive GM food labeling so that shoppers have the same choice as farmers, to take or leave GM crops and their products.

"If GM foods were so safe and beneficial they would all be boldly labeled but this government and its friends Monsanto and Bayer have a lot to hide.

"We are here to shake the Rudd government out of its complacency with the overwhelming public support for Australia staying GM-free," Ms Harrison concludes.

### **GM-free Protest Rally: Sunday, December 7 2008, Geelong**

**The Rudd Government's Community Cabinet meets at Corio Bay College, Goldsworthy Rd, Geelong, Sunday, December 7 2008 (Melway Ref: Map 432 A9) GM-free supporters will rally at the College from 12 Noon to greet government Ministers and invited guests. Official proceedings start at 1pm.**

**More info: GM Cropwatch 0407 307 231  
Gene Ethics 03 9347 4500/03 9889 1717**

## **ALP federal policy (annotated)**

### **Genetically Modified crops**

Labor recognises ongoing community concern about genetically modified crops being grown in Australia. **(But it has done nothing except uncritically fund and promote GM)** We believe that genetically modified (GM) crops should not be approved for commercial release unless they are safe to health and the environment, and beneficial to the economy. Labor supports the existing national framework for management and regulation of gene technology.

A Rudd Labor Government will ensure that the assessment process for GM licence applications is based on rigorous science, **(It is science-based, not scientific)** and that any evidence presented to support claims is subject to peer review **(Most is not peer-reviewed and is applicant-generated)** and thorough public consultation. **(Brief, unresponsive)**

Labor will also ensure that the process for assessment of GM crops includes careful consideration of health and environmental risks. **(The regulators set no scientific benchmarks or standards for the reliability, relevance or replicability of the data submitted by applicants, so almost anything goes)**

Safe and beneficial standards must be established **(no objective standards have been set)** beyond reasonable doubt **(they are not reasonable)** and standards must be met to the satisfaction of the government, the scientific community, the consumer community and the farming community. **(Most farmers and shoppers are very dissatisfied)**