

# Gene Ethics

## News Media Alert 24/4/09

### GM canola segregation lies unravel

**Mebourne: BULK grain handler GrainCorp will mix Genetically Manipulated (GM) and non-GM canola varieties together from now on. After just one season, the GM industry has scrapped its pretence that GM and non-GM canola can and will be segregated. GrainCorp's David Ginns reportedly says: "We no longer segregate GM to everything else." <http://www.graincorp.com.au/Pages/default.aspx>**

"GM companies have lied for 20 years, that GM and non-GM canola could and would be kept separate so farmers, processors and shoppers had GM-free choice," says Gene Ethics Director, Bob Phelps.

"Yet Monsanto's RoundUp tolerant GM canola will be mixed with conventional, Triazine Tolerant and Clearfield canola varieties in bin CSO1, which will sell unlabeled in domestic and export markets.

"The mixed GM/non-GM bin ends Australia's non-GM supplier status, puts extra costs onto farmers and will soon remove the non-GM choice.

"Canadian and US experience also shows the costs of introducing GM canola will be off-loaded onto farmers growing non-GM canola varieties." he says.

To facilitate the transfer of costs, GrainCorp will offer a separate Non-GM canola bin called CSO1A, for customers who want GM-free grain.

Ginns says: "There's a set process to verify that it is non-GM grain. These grains will have additional tests and attract an additional fee."

The rationale for loading GM costs onto non-GM suppliers, he says, is that: "If the marketers want people to deliver to that (non-GM) bin, then they should provide a price incentive to cover the additional cost."

"Now with the 0.9% threshold, food processors will be under constant threat of GM contamination and won't dare to label their products non-GM."

"Our governments are conspiring with the GM companies in their GM-free canola hijack," he says.

"GM canola plantings should again be banned, at least until segregation is guaranteed at no cost to non-GM farmers, since they supply the GM-free foods that over 90% of shoppers want," Mr Phelps concludes.

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