



The Organic Growers Association of Western Australia, Inc

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End of GM moratorium: Organic industry big losers

The Organic Growers Association of WA is extremely disappointed with Minister Redman's announcement to lift the moratorium on commercial growing of Genetically Modified (GM) crops.

OGAWA has repeatedly warned the Minister that the organic industry will suffer once contamination of GM becomes widespread.

Ms Leesa Caldwell, President of OGAWA said, "We emphasized the point that our growers will have difficulties in maintaining accreditation as well as sourcing GM free produce. In our submission to the *Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Act 2003* review late last year,"

"Current organic standards do not permit the use of GM in any part of the production of organic food/crops,"

"Segregation of GM is impossible and contamination of non-GM crops will invariably occur, hence we are disappointed that the Minister has not taken steps to protect our industry,"

"Our members now face difficulties in protecting their livelihood and as sourcing GM free produce becomes more difficult and more expensive, we will see more and more growers opting out of organic farming," Ms Caldwell added

"The organic sector will decline as a result of increasing costs, which are then passed onto consumers wanting certified organic products to avoid eating GM ingredients"

"It is extremely disappointing that the Minister has disregarded one sector of agriculture in WA and has blatantly ignored lucrative local and overseas markets for certified organic produce", Ms Caldwell concluded.

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Bringing Organic Growers and Consumers Together