

**Letter to the Editor, Rural Press, The Land
20.10.2005**

Sir,

How about some GE, control resistant rabbits ?

Future generations may well see the proposal in the 'The Land' (13/10/05) to 'just get on with' the widespread adoption of GM crop technology in Australia as rather similar to earlier 'beneficial' efforts such as the introduction of rabbits and cane toads.

NASAA takes strong exception to the 'just get on with it' approach – because it is certain to be the livelihood of organic operators that will suffer if unregulated GM cropping takes place in Australia.

By way of comfort for the likely 'inconvenience' to non-GM adopters, The Land notes that 'there's a good chance the local objectors will be able to remain GM-free'.

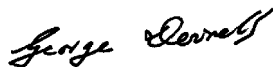
What industry in its right mind would accept that such a 'good chance' is good enough?

Organic farming has a rigorous, audited focus on food safety and traceability. Today, consumer demand in 'first world' markets is growing far faster than for any 'conventional' category – while no consumer demand has been identified for specifically GM produce.

Surely there is a clear message here? Has Australian agriculture not been exhorted time and again to 'listen to the customer'? As 'The Land' often reminds us, Australian agriculture is appealing because we are 'clean and green'. In fact, 'clean and green' maybe our best chance of continuing global market access as we are confronted with lower-cost competitors.

We simply can't afford 'GM accidents' or to rely on 'good chances'.

GM croppers are the 'new kids on the block'. The GM industry must guarantee that it will not damage established organic or conventional farming, at either enterprise level or in global market access.



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