

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

GM Canola Concerns

25th July 2003

Independent Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has expressed concern at the commercial release of Australia's first genetically modified food crop.

The Commonwealth Gene Technology Regulator has approved the release of Bayer's hybrid canola.

Mr Draper recently spoke of local concerns surrounding gene technology in the NSW Parliament.

"The Commonwealth has been too hasty in making this decision. We do not know the full impact of genetically modified canola on other crops and I fear this decision may cost us dearly," Mr Draper said.

"People also thought cane toads were safe when they were first introduced, but look at them now."

"A recent survey of 200 farmers found most are extremely concerned at the commercial release of GM crops and the potential impact on traditional crops. Can the regulator guarantee that landholders won't be adversely affected by this release?"

"There are still concerns within our scientific community on the commercial release of GM crops. Our farmers can't be allowed to pay the price for this decision."

"The three year moratorium, which I supported, will offer some protection for our land holders, but there are many questions that need to be answered."

"Local councils in the electorate of Tamworth have expressed concerns at the release of GM crops for some time. I recently spoke in the NSW Parliament on the efforts of local groups to fight the release."

"If this decision cannot be reversed, I call on the Federal Government to ensure the strictest conditions are placed on the growing of genetically modified canola. The Prime Minister has been warned about the potential impact on landholders and our communities."

www.peterdraper.com.au

Media Contacts: Peter Draper mob. 0417 290 376 Electorate Office ph. 6766 1422
Shannon Most mob. 0402 13 99 11 Parliament House ph. 9230 2341