



Letter to the Editor

Monday 14 February, 2011

'Never waste a good crisis'

Make no mistake; it would be a travesty if the WA organic case against GM canola steers our agricultural sector backwards in time.

Farmers need to be able to have access to new technology, otherwise we will be out-competed, we'll slip into a productivity and profitability vortex, we'll be less able to care for the land, and our urban communities will then start asking why they're paying top dollar for lower quality imported food!

In this case, and with the rash talk about the need for new regulations, I can't help but feel that some minority groups are looking for opportunities to further their own causes or justify their existence.

Why should organics - a market segment created by advertising and emotional appeals - prevent the farming majority from using any new, proven, technically-advanced crops, such as GM canola?

But, there's also GreenPeace's professional activists campaigning against GM technology - despite its former leader denouncing this policy.

They certainly 'never waste a good crisis' and their latest effort is condemning the report from the Panel reviewing our country's food labelling laws.

The real deal is that GM canola is a target for anti-corporate eco-alarmists who won't win on the use of GM technology in medicine and disease control, and are looking for cheap point-scoring.

It also reflects that our society is losing - or has lost? - an appreciation of real, modern, scientifically-based farming - which is the only realistic way of feeding the worlds burgeoning population.

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The Producers Forum is a national group of agricultural producers. For further information see www.producersforum.net.au