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## WHAT'S GREENPEACE'S REAL GAME?

Next week, the multinational Greenpeace will step-up its campaign against GM foods with the launch of another "True Food Guide". The booklet implores consumers to buy food from companies that do not use GM ingredients.

Greenpeace claims that foods with GM ingredients are unsafe, unlabelled and unwanted. But is this really the case? Or is this simply another ploy designed to worry the community and increase Greenpeace memberships?

GM crops, used as food ingredients, have been grown, traded and consumed around the globe since 1996. They undergo thorough scientific assessment, much greater than other crops, and claims to suggest otherwise are misleading.

Greenpeace is also trying to panic us about labelling. But Australia has had a GM labelling system since 2001. Health ministers were clear this was to facilitate choice.

Last year 12 million farmers grew 114 million hectares of GM crops. Farmers are not known for growing dud products, given that their livelihoods depend on production. In Australia, our cotton farmers have chosen to grow GM varieties which account for over 95 per cent of the crop. This year some farmers have also chosen to grow GM canola for the first time.

Greenpeace states its mission is "to expose global environmental problems and to force solutions which are essential to a green and peaceful future." Why then are they not backing GM crops, as their former leader Patrick Moore does?

Australia's GM cotton has delivered an 85 per cent reduction in pesticide use, reduced fuel use, enhanced water-use efficiency and minimised cultivation, which in-turn reduces the carbon footprint. GM canola offers better weed control, higher yields, improved oil quality and less herbicide. Ironically, those growing conventional varieties will require greater inputs.

Given that GM crops have established their green credentials, is Greenpeace truly green or is this a case of a green eyed monster chasing your dollars?

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