



SHIRE OF MUKINBUDIN

MEDIA RELEASE

20 April 2009

Shire requests ban on Genetically Modified Canola

The Shire of Mukinbudin has voted unanimously to request the State Government to keep the municipality free from genetically modified canola for the next three years.

The motion passed at the April meeting of Council also requests that the State Government ban the storage and transport of GM Canola through the municipality.

In reaching this decision Council was mindful of the current gap in knowledge of the long term effects of the consumption of GM Canola in human health and in contamination of other crops from growing, storage or transport of GM Canola.

Cr Gary Shadbolt, Shire President, stated that “Western Australia is currently GM Canola free and needs to consider upholding this reputation in the context of world markets. To prematurely introduce GM Canola without considering the long term effects can be likened to the introduction of the cane-toad or other supposed silver bullets that ultimately turn out to be a pest, or worse, an irreversible nightmare threatening the marketability of our crops and negatively affecting our livelihoods.”

“We request the State government to ban all trial crops in the Shire of Mukinbudin and seriously consider the implications of allowing any trials in Western Australia while the long term effects remain unknown.”

The Shire of Mukinbudin is not against new technology and if future studies show that there is zero chance of cross contamination and that growing GM Canola will not affect the non-GM grain market then in accordance with the Council decision the Shire will reconsider their position before the end of the three years.

Ends

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