

Submission to Nicola Roxon re labelling of GM ingredients.

Permaculture Blue Mountains is an incorporated association that works to promote sustainable systems, including growing a community awareness of food security and sustainable food systems, across the Blue Mountains. Its members include health professionals, community workers, community gardeners, academics, teachers and development practitioners.

We ask that all ingredients fully or partly derived from a GM crop or processes including GM crops are clearly identified and labelled as such. This includes ingredients from a GM crop (i.e. GM corn, canola, soy, sugar and cotton); milk, meat, eggs, fish and honey from animals fed GM feed; from GM derived additives, processing aids, colours and flavours.

As consumers we can make an informed choice about the sources of the foods we buy. There are many questions around the science of GM food that are still unanswered especially the long term effects.

Health Departments across Australia are promoting awareness of what we eat for good health. We need to know what is in our food as part of this awareness.

We also need to protect farmers whose livelihoods depend on certification, for example Organic Biodynamic growers, whose regulations specifically expressly prohibits the presence of GM from their crops.

Many people need clear labelling of all ingredients as a health requirement e.g. those suffering from food intolerance and allergies, as well as for religious beliefs and/or ethical considerations or exclusion of certain animals from the diet.

Consumers are increasingly demanding good and accessible labelling which Permaculture Blue Mountains supports.

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