

On 19/09/2017 10:47 AM, Diana Rickard and Greg Chapman wrote:

Dear Reviewers,

As residents of a rural area outside of Darwin NT, we are constantly under threat from monocultural medium to large scale food plant growers who overuse farm chemicals to produce more profit for their industrial wants. We farm on a small scale using organic standards and permacultural methods. Our food crops are healthy and are strictly for local consumption. We fight chemical abuse by our chemically-addicted neighbours so as to protect our community, our heritage food plants and the beneficial insects that fertilise them and the natural environment from harm and pollution.

In the past we've contributed to OGTR reviews of GM products that are highly likely to infect and permanently adversely affect our local environment if allowed. We are aware of the power that chemical companies and GM protagonists wield over governments and the globalised agricultural industry. We are also aware that the OGTR and that its legislative instruments currently recognise the good science behind ecologically sustainable practice and the precautionary principle. While this is enshrined in our regulatory processes, we can contribute as members of the public openly and fairly to a review system that we trust will continue to fight for protection of the health and safety of people and the environment.

If the OGTR regulatory system is changed to cater primarily to the greeds of capital investors instead of the needs of people and the environment, local small-scale farmers will be sacrificed to their gods of Mammon. Those of us needing to carry out local, small-scale healthy food processes using scientifically-proven organic standards to feed our families and our community need to do this independently of global agribusiness and chemical company chains.

In essence, we ask you to seriously consider the self-determining future of small ethical farming practices as the key to a healthy and sustainable future for the world. Our heritage plants and animals are hardy and resilient and small-scale farmers around the world are fighting the agribusiness giants wanting to cut more corners using GM technology. Wide-scale GM food production has serious scientific shortcomings for a struggling world environment. It will *not* feed the world whereas small-scale traditional food production may. We grow our crops as food not as cash.

We prefer to live in a world where people and the environment that we depend on are protected well into the future from the short-term profit motives of economic rationalists. We live in communities and with growing environmental uncertainties. We do not live in an economy built on business-as-usual certainty.

Respectfully,

Diana and Greg

Diana Rickard and Greg Chapman

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