



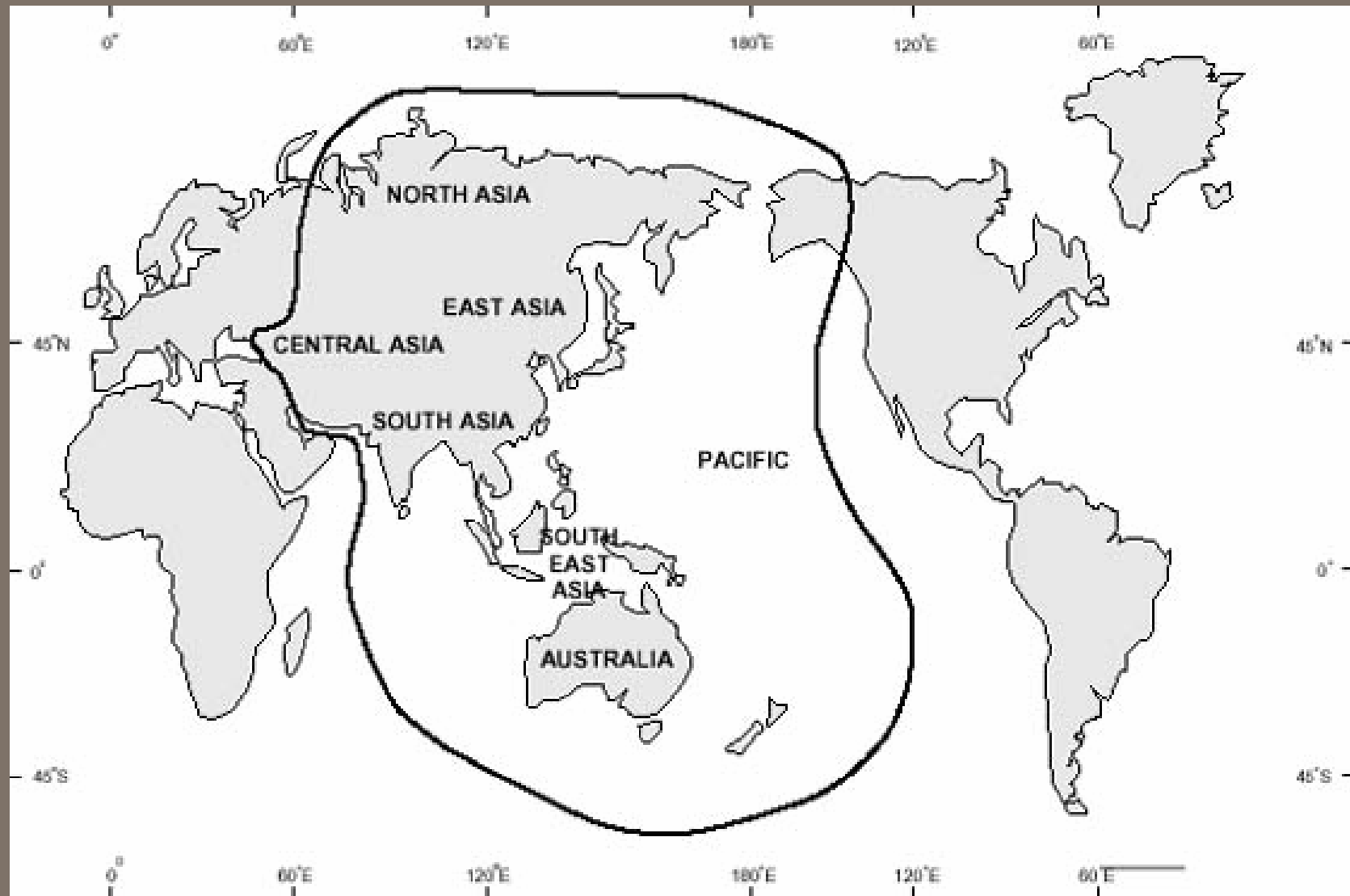
Conservation Council of Western Australia

A voice for the environment

GMO situation in Australia

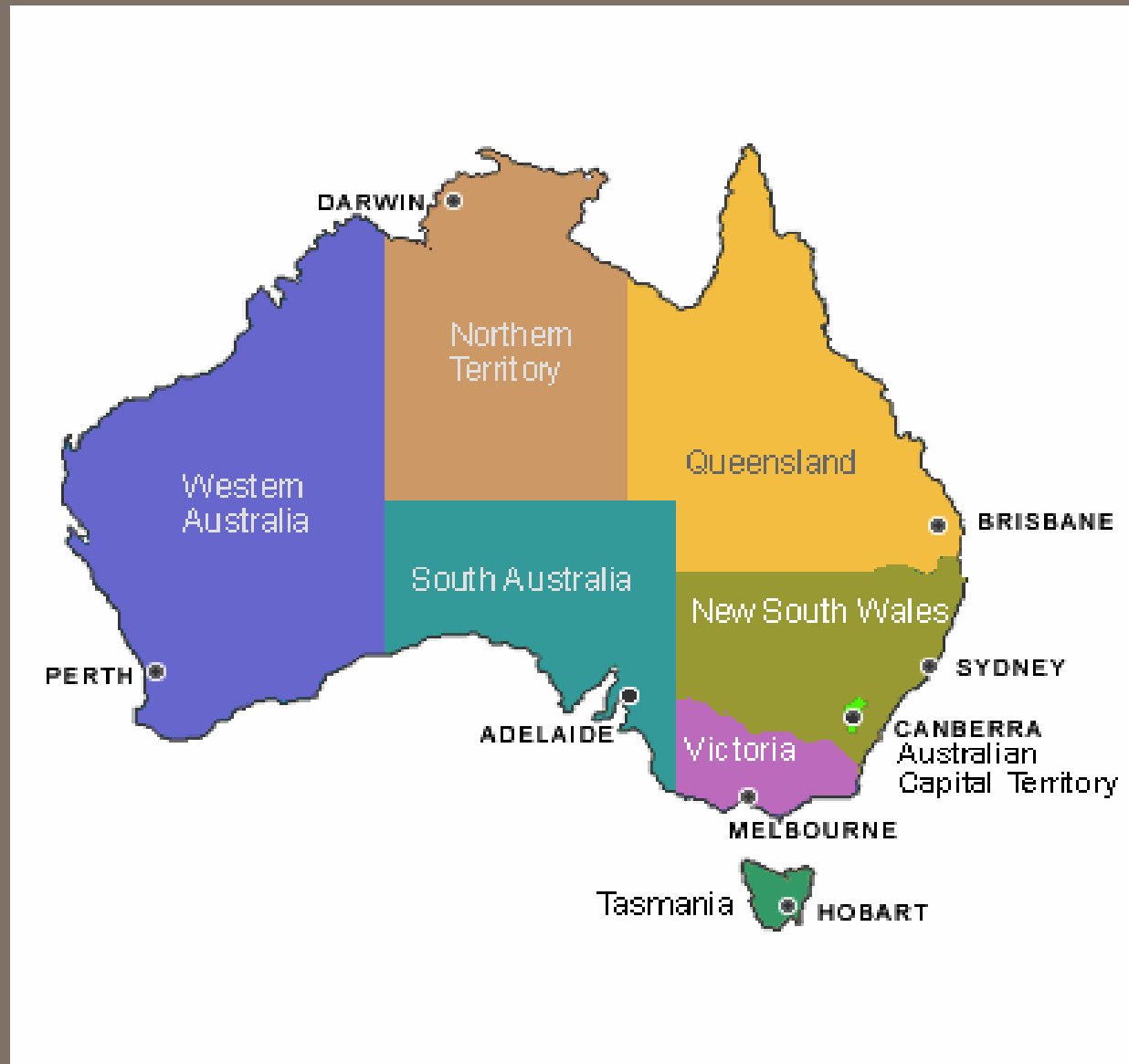
Dr Maggie Lilith
Sustainable Agriculture Officer
srlo@conservationwa.asn.au

Australia - location



<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/migratory/waterbirds/2001-2005/images/map1.jpg>

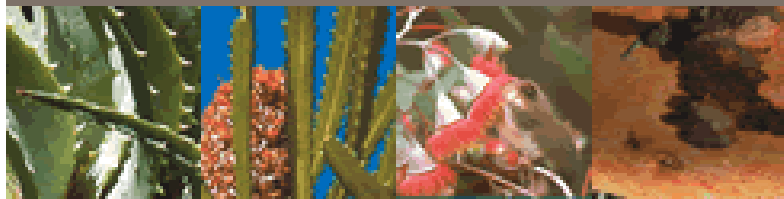
Australian states



<http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/choose-australia/regional-life/images/maps/mapofaustralia.gif>

Office of the Gene technology Regulator (OGTR)

- The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator has been established within the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing under the *Gene Technology Act 2000*.
- In charge of approving GM crops for trials and commercial release in Australia
- Crops grown are subject to respective state bans or moratorium.



*The environment can't speak for itself,
so we will.*

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)

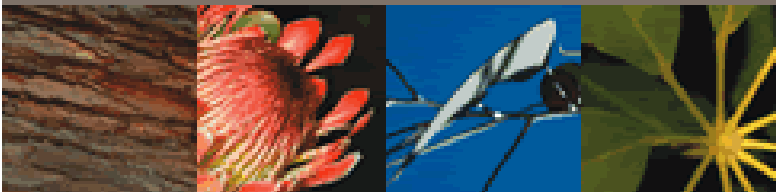
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is an independent statutory agency established by the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991.
- Food standards is set for Australia and New Zealand under an integrated food regulatory system involving both the governments.
- FSANZ does not conduct independent testing of GM ingredients
- No requirement of mandatory labelling of GM ingredients.



GM Foods approved for sale in Australia

- Soybean processed, snack foods, oil, bread
- Corn oil, flour, syrup, snack foods
- Canola oil in tinned, fried & snack foods
- Potato snack foods
- Sugar beet sugar in processed foods
- Cottonseed oil, margarine in snack food

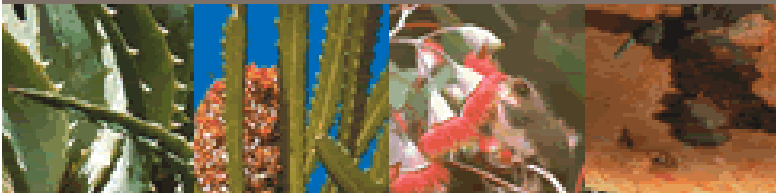
ALL unlabelled!!!



*'Nature never did betray the
heart that loved her.'*
William Wordsworth

States moratoria

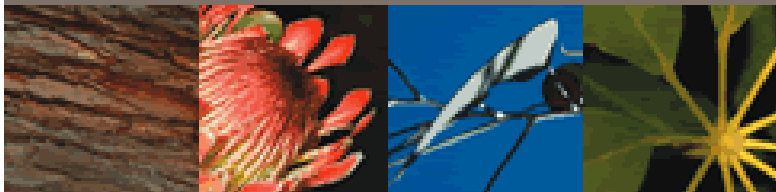
- Victoria - ended Feb 2008. Planting of GM canola started in April.
- New South Wales - as above
- South Australia - recently announced that moratorium extended indefinitely
- Western Australia - ends at next state government election (possibly end this year).
- Northern Territory - no moratorium
- Queensland - no moratorium



Educate, lobby, campaign

Implications

- Segregation between states (eg Victoria and South Australia - no border control)
- Trade - effect on non GM states? Will they get premium or be tainted with same brush?
- Organic sector in GM states vs non GM states
- Costs for non-GM farmers in GM states
- Food sector - many food companies are based in Victoria and New South Wales - no labelling of GM ingredients.



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Impacts on biodiversity

- Impacts on biodiversity & environment overall
- Threatened flora species in respective states



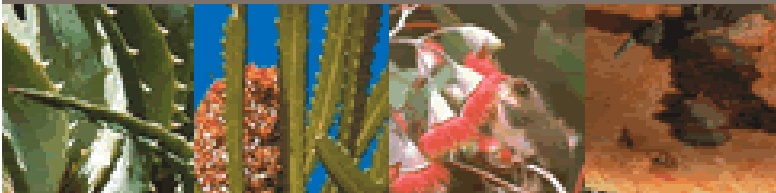
Our nature is to be outspoken

Resistance to herbicide

- Development of resistance to herbicide - proven
- Wild radish already resistant to Roundup (glyphosate) in many states
- So why adopt RR canola



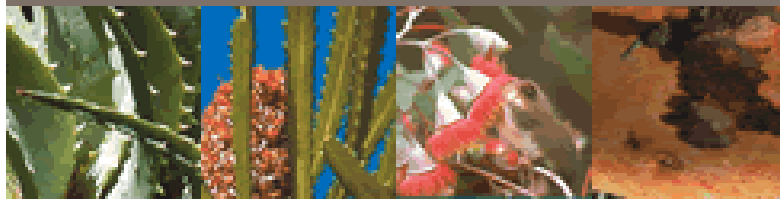
www.ento.csiro.au/weeds/wilradish/index.html



Educate, lobby, campaign

Liability not yet addressed

- Between states e.g. Victoria and South Australia
- Who pays for:
 - Contamination
 - Removal of GM crops
 - Contamination of nature reserves and public land
 - Loss of income and organic certification



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Irreversibility & market access

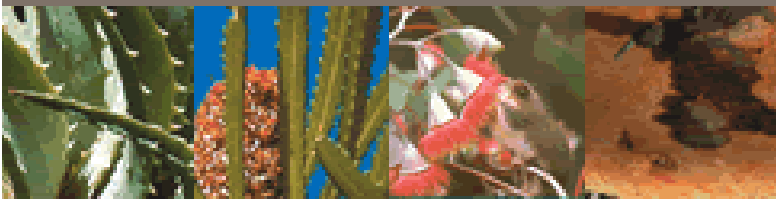
- Not possible for non GM farmers in GM states to market as non -GM without costs of testing
- Overseas markets asking non-GM grains/oils.
- We will LOSE market share



*Environmental Information
Policy Development*

Our campaigns

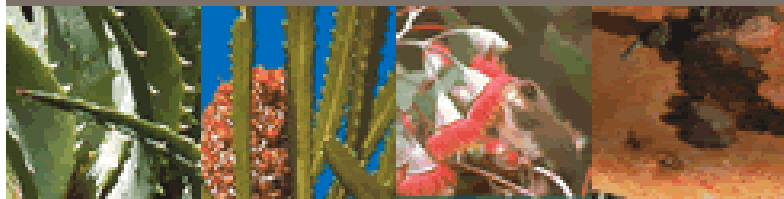
- Australia wide - GE free Australia
- Victoria - Gene Ethics
- New South Wales - Greenpeace
- South Australia - Greenpeace
- Western Australia - Conservation Council “*Say NO to GMO*” alliance



Educate, lobby, campaign

Western Australia

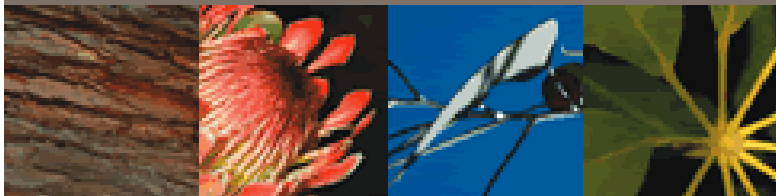
- GMO Industry Reference Group
 - GM cotton paper
 - Draft GM canola paper currently being discussed
- The difficulty with media
- *Say NO to GMO* campaign - successes so far and upcoming plans



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so we will.*

How you can help us

- Please sign our letter to our Prime Minister - FSANZ and OGTR
- Please sign our letter to our state Premier for an extension to the moratorium
- International protest - pressure on our trade i.e. will stop buying from Aust if country is GM.



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