GM-FREE ZONE PETITION TO THE CESSNOCK SHIRE COUNCIL

We, the undersigned residents of the Cessnock Shire Council area, ask our council to take every possible action to help ensure that Genetically Manipulated (GM) crops are not grown in our region, and that our region remains GM-free. We therefore ask our council to make and implement the following resolutions:

1. **Write to the Premier to ask the state government to:**

a. extend the ban on commercial GM canola for at least another five years;
b. use its powers to create GM and GM-free areas and to declare our municipality a GM-free Zone (a policy principle made under Section 21 of the Commonwealth Gene Technology Act 2000 gives all states these powers); and
c. establish a public on-line register (including maps) showing all GM release sites, both experimental and commercial - so those who want to stay GM-free (including farmers, beekeepers, etc) can avoid those sites.

2. **Declare the council's jurisdiction a GM-free Zone by:**

a. amending council's food service contracts, to require GM-free foods in all council food services;
b. posting GM-free Zone signage in and around the municipality (Gene Ethics has some if required);
c. publicly signing and distributing a GM-free Zone Declaration;
d. publicising the GM-free Zone declaration in local media, on the website and on notice boards;
e. asking local businesses and organisations to support the GM-free Zone by signing on to a GM-free statement; and
f. establishing a local register to record and map the location of any GM sites in the area, when and if this becomes necessary.

3. **Write to Commonwealth and State Health and Agriculture Ministers, advocating that:**

a. no state or territory government allow its GM crop ban to expire without the agreement of all states;
b. all foods made using GM technology and processes are to become fully labeled; and
c. strict liability laws are enacted to hold GM companies fully responsible for GM contamination.

Name	Address	Signature	Phone	Email