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## It's a sweet deal for the bees

THE latest claims by Greenpeace ("Uproar as GM canola 'contaminates' beehive", *The Age*, 2/10) again demonstrates its willingness to make outrageous and false claims in its quest against modern agricultural biotechnology. Australian honey is safe to consume. Any pollen (genetically modified or not) present in honey is at minimal levels, and does not cross any labelling thresholds.

The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator concluded in December 2003 "that the risks to human health and safety and to the environment from the commercial release of Monsanto's Roundup Ready canola are no greater than those posed by conventional canola". This means GM canola has been approved as safe for human and animal consumption by the Australian regulators.

If bees do happen to forage on GM canola, it is a safe pollen source for the bees and safe for us to consume.

Australian farmers and their produce should not be held to ransom because of one group that refuses to listen to sound science and breaks the law to deliver its misguided, misinformed and unnecessarily alarmist messages.

**Honi McNaughton, public affairs manager,  
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