

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA — CONTAMINATION OF CROPS

20. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) Is the minister aware that the Kojonup farmer whose farm was stripped of its organic status due to genetically modified canola contamination already has legal fees amounting to \$30 000?
- (2) Will the government establish a fund to compensate farmers for the loss of their organic and non-GM status due to GM contamination?
- (3) Will the minister consider introducing farm protection legislation to ensure that the livelihoods of organic and non-GM farmers are not threatened by the introduction of GM canola in Western Australia?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No. However, once the minister read the question, I presume he did realise.
- (2)–(3) The 2005–06 independent review of the Gene Technology Act 2000 considered proposals to establish a compensation fund and to introduce farmer protection legislation. The review concluded that a mandatory compensation scheme and a strict liability regime should not be introduced into the act.