

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA TRIALS — WONGAN HILLS

879. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the government's current genetically modified canola trials, and in particular to the recent decision to terminate the Wongan Hills trial.

- (1) When was the Wongan Hills trial terminated?
- (2) Who made the decision to terminate the trial?
- (3) What reasons were given for the decision to terminate the Wongan Hills trial?
- (4) Why was the Wongan Hills trial not left to run its full course?
- (5) Under what circumstances will other trials be abandoned?
- (6) Have any other trials been abandoned?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1) Trial termination date was 13 July 2009.
- (2) Representatives of the grains industry companies carrying out the trial decided to terminate the trial.
- (3) The crop had poor germination across the triazine-tolerant, Roundup Ready and Clearfield canola varieties. In addition, poor radish emergence at the site limited the use of the site for radish control research.
- (4) The trial was unlikely to produce meaningful results.
- (5) It is unlikely, as all other trial crops are progressing in accordance with local conditions.
- (6) No.