

WESTERN AUSTRALIA, GENETICALLY MODIFIED FREE ZONE

Petition

HON SALLY TALBOT (South West — Parliamentary Secretary) [2.01 pm]: I present a petition containing 1 300 signatures couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned residents of Western Australia are opposed to commercial growing of GM crops in this State as GM crops will inevitably contaminate non-GM crops and result in the loss of our ‘clean green’ image. Furthermore, no adequate, independent health studies have been done to prove that GM foods will not cause health impacts for current and future generations.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council to introduce a strict liability regime to ensure all parties involved in bringing GM crops and/or food into Western Australia (including growers and patent holders) will be held legally liable for any contamination incidents causing market and economic loss, health impacts or environmental damage associated with GM crops/food.

Your petitioners respectfully request the Legislative Council to extend the moratorium on the growing of GM crops in Western Australia until above issues have been addressed.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 4085.]