

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA — MORATORIUM

Petition

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [3.05 pm]: I have a petition that reads —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, say that as Genetically Modified (GM) canola seeds and pollen cannot be contained, the decision to allow commercial growing will invariably contaminate all non-GM crops. If contaminated with GM, non GM farmers will lose their markets, organic farmers will face loss of certification and consumers will not be able to actively avoid GM foods because of current inadequate labelling regulations.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to revoke the decision on allowing commercial growing of GM canola in Western Australia and renew the moratorium on GM crops in this State.

The petition has been signed by 11 people, in addition to the 25 000 others who have already signed petitions that have been tabled.

[See petition 229.]

The SPEAKER: I give the call to the member for Rockingham.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I have given the call to the member for Rockingham so that he can read a petition. I thought that the member for Collie–Preston had finished with his petition, and I did not know that the Minister for Agriculture and Food had a petition. The only person I want to hear from is the member for Rockingham.

Point of Order

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Mr Speaker, during question time you called opposition members to order on a number of occasions. I am not sure whether you are aware that the Minister for Agriculture and Food was continually interjecting during the presentation of the petition by the member for Murray–Wellington. I ask you to show some equity in your decision.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. But I hope that the subtle suggestion I was making to the Minister for Agriculture and Food might sink in.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The member for Mandurah referred to the person making the accusations as the member for Murray–Wellington. I believe it was the member for Collie–Wellington, who is on his own team, so he should at least get that right.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I also make a correction; it is Collie–Preston.

The SPEAKER: My response to the point of order is that there are no more points of order on this point of order!