

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA — COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

1878. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the advertisement in the Farm Weekly Newspaper dated 8 October 2009 which seeks to inform Western Australian canola growers of the availability for purchase of Roundup Ready Hybrid, CHYB-166RR seed plus a range of other seeds for the 2009–2010 growing season, and I ask:

- (a) has a decision been made to permit the commercial sale and cultivation of Genetically Modified (GM) Canola in Western Australia for the coming season; and
 - (i) if not, can the Minister explain why Monsanto's Roundup Ready hybrid is being offered for sale before the results of the current commercial trial are known; and
- (b) can the Minister advise if there are any legislative or regulatory restrictions on the sale of GM Canola seed at this point in time?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) No
 - (i) The seed company involved has indicated that the advertisement should have carried a caveat that the availability of Roundup Ready® hybrid CHYB-166 seed in Western Australia is subject to a decision by the Western Australian government to allow the commercial production of approved GM canola traits in 2010 and beyond.
- (b) The current Western Australian legislative and regulatory restrictions do not apply to the sale of GM canola seed, only to the cultivation of such seed.