

WESTERN POWER — GENETIC MODIFICATION-FREE FARMS — ENTRY PROTOCOLS

5089. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) I refer to Western Power and its contractors' protocols for entering Genetically Modified (GM)-free farming properties, and I ask:
 - (a) what protocols does Western Power require its employees and contractors to adhere to when entering GM-free properties to help ensure workers do not cross contaminate such properties with biological material from other farms; and
 - (b) what compensation does Western Power provide to GM-free farmers whose properties are contaminated by the actions of Western Power employees or contractors?
- (2) What biosecurity protocols does Western Power require its employees and contractors to adhere to when entering GM-free properties to ensure invasive weeds and pests are not transferred onto such farms?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

- (1) (a) Western power's Work Practice Manual Section 11.13 (Biosecurity) requires employees and contractors to do the following when entering any agricultural property:

Notify landowners prior to entry.

Ask if there are any biosecurity issues associated with the property.

Inspect vehicle/equipment for plant, animal and soil material before leaving the depot. If required, clean vehicle/equipment to ensure they are free of plant, animal and soil material.

Upon arrival at worksite/agricultural property, inspect and clean the vehicle/equipment as required before entering to ensure that it is free of plant, animal and soil material.

If working in a genetically modified crop, ensure the vehicle/equipment is free of all plant material (e.g. flowers, roots, leaves) on exiting the property.
- (b) Western Power has not paid compensation in this situation.
- (2) As above for (1)(a).