

DAIRY CATTLE, BOVINE GROWTH HORMONE

358. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) Has Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) (also known as rBST or Posilac[®]) or recombinant bovine somatotropin (rbST) been approved for use in dairy cattle in Western Australia?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) Is the Minister for Primary Industry aware of studies which have shown a 50 percent risk increase of lameness and a 25 percent risk of increase of mastitis (udder infections) from the use of these growth hormones?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) The National Registration Authority has not registered Bovine Growth hormone (rBGH/rBST/Posilac) for use in Australia, nor is it under consideration at this time.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Minister is aware that there have been news articles in the scientific press referring to possible animal health and/or welfare issues associated with the uses of this product in dairy cows.