

## GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA TRIALS

*Statement by Member for Collie-Preston*

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie-Preston)** [12.26 pm]: I wish to make a brief statement in support of the members of Western Australia's farming community who travelled to Perth this week to protest against the government's ill-advised trials of genetically modified canola crops. The core group of protesters from the farming community of Williams are genuine country people with very real concerns about the uncertainties of these GM canola trials, very real concerns about the government's secrecy on the details of the trials and very real concerns about the future of their traditional way of farming and their GM-free status. The protest organiser, Mrs Janette Liddelow, is part of a third-generation Western Australian farming family and she, like many other Western Australian farmers, wants to be able to farm GM-free crops and to know that those GM-free crops will remain just that. Mrs Liddelow is ably supported by her fellow protesters from Williams—Jo Fowler, Margie Haddrick and Catherine Higham. I encourage members on their way to and from the house to stop and chat with these dedicated ladies and listen to their very real concerns about GM canola being forced upon them. Members should make no mistake that, despite not wanting to be a part of growing GM crops, these farmers will have that choice ripped away from them. I urge members to talk with these protesters. They are from traditional farming families. They know the processes of farming and they know, with certainty, that there is no way they will be able to keep GM canola seed from their paddocks once those GM seeds are planted. Mrs Liddelow and her fellow protesters have very real concerns about the future of their children, the future health of their children and the freedom for their children to continue in their family's GM-free farming tradition. I commend their action to the house.