

MONSANTO, SHIRE OF KOJONUP

33. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Agriculture

- (1) Is the Minister aware that Monsanto proposes to trial a crop of genetically manipulated canola in the Shire of Kojonup?
- (2) Has the Shire of Kojonup declared itself to be a GMO Free Zone?
- (3) Is Monsanto required to supply details of the trial crop to the Shire and the State Minister for Agriculture?
- (4) Has Monsanto notified the Shire of Kojonup and the Minister of details of the crop trial?
- (5) Can the Minister supply details of the location, size and proposed planting time of the trial crop?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

1. Through a letter to me from the Shire of Kojonup, I am aware that Monsanto sent the Shire a letter regarding an application submitted to the Interim Office of the Gene Technology Regulator for conduct of field trials of genetically modified crops in the Shire.
2. The Shire of Kojonup has not advised me of such a declaration, however their letter expresses clear opposition to GMOs.
3. Under the current, voluntary system a company is not required to directly notify a shire. The Interim Office of the Gene Technology Regulator would notify a shire if it gave approval for a GM field trial to be conducted in that shire. As of 21 June 2001 when the Gene Technology Act 2000 becomes operational, proponents of field trials of GM Crops will be required to supply detailed information to the Gene Technology Regulator. The Regulator must seek advice from the States and any relevant local council on a risk assessment and risk management plan in relation to a field trial proposed in the application.
4. Monsanto has not notified me. I do not know what details Monsanto might have provided direct to the Shire of Kojonup.
5. See answer to question 4.