

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA — CONTAMINATION TO ORGANIC CROPS

4643. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

In relation to genetically modified (GM) canola contaminating organic crops, I ask:

- (a) what action will the Minister take to prevent contamination of organic crops caused by genetically modified (GM) canola which causes loss of income and loss of certification of organic crops?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) GM canola is not a contaminant. The Australian Gene Technology Regulator concluded that GM canola was as safe to human health and the environment as non-GM varieties in 2003.

Loss of certification due to the presence of GM material in an organic crop is a coexistence-related matter. The Department of Agriculture and Food will continue to provide growers with information to support the coexistence of different production systems.