

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA — CONTAMINATION PENALTIES

5343. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

In relation to the clean-up of a farm site contaminated with unwanted genetically modified (GM) seed, I ask:

- (a) does the Minister or his departments have the authority to order a person responsible for unwanted contamination to clean up the affected area;
- (b) if the answer to (a) is yes, what penalties would the person incur if they refused; and
- (c) if the answer to (a) is no, does the Minister intend to introduce such regulations or penalties?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) No. I have no legislated power to order any person to do anything in relation to the presence of legally permitted canola material, GM or non GM, on a grower's property.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) No. Growers usually resolve matters related to the movement of plant material, animals, water, or soil by discussion with their neighbours. If discussion fails to resolve the matter, occasionally growers may resort to common law.