

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA — CONTAMINATION TO ORGANIC CROPS

4680. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the contamination of Mr Steve Marsh's Kojonup organic farm with genetically modified (GM) canola, and I ask:

- (a) in reference to the Minister's statement on 11 March 2010 that the trials proved GM and non-GM canola can be segregated and marketed separately, does the Minister now concede that the trials were flawed;
- (b) did the Minister write to Steve Marsh and ask him to lobby the National Association of Sustainable Agriculture Australia (NASAA) to drop its zero per cent threshold for accidental GM contamination of organic crops;
- (c) has the Minister written to NASSA and asked it to drop its zero per cent threshold for accidental GM contamination of organic crops; and
- (d) as the European Union recently adopted a 0.9 per cent threshold for unintentional presence of GM material, is it Government policy that Western Australia will do the same?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) No
- (b) No. In my letter to Mr Marsh I urged him to discuss with NASAA the need to establish workable thresholds for organic produce.
- (c) No
- (d) No. Grain marketing thresholds are determined by the Australian grains industry.