

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROP TRIALS — CROSS-CONTAMINATION POSSIBILITY

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

- (1) What guarantee is there that there will be no cross-contamination between Genetically Modified and non-Genetically Modified crop trials in Western Australia?
- (2) Who will pay the cost of litigation and compensation if and when contamination occurs from Genetically Modified crops to neighbouring farms and properties in Western Australia?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (1) The National standard for non-GM canola states that it can contain up to 0.9 per cent unintended presence of GM canola. This was agreed to by the previous Government and industry. The industry and the Department of Agriculture and Food have procedures in place to prevent the unintended presence of GM canola in non-GM canola to achieve the National standard. These include protocols that cover seed importation and handling, on-farm crop management (including specified buffer zones and weed management plans) and post-harvest handling and storage. Further, trial sites will be closely managed and monitored during the trial and post-trial periods.
- (2) If unintended presence should occur for which someone should be held liable then the person who alleges to have suffered damage may consider redress against the person they believe responsible.