Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY - Tuesday, 23 February 2010] p22b-22b Mr Mick Murray; Mr Terry Redman

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA — CROP SEGREGATION PROTOCOLS

11. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Agriculture:

I ask a supplementary question. As these protocols and standards failed 11 out of 17 times in the trials, how can the minister be so confident?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

I wish to make a couple of points. The member is referring to some of the incidents that occurred throughout the trial process. There were 11 incidents. We should bear in mind that we were going through a trial in Western Australia where there was effectively a moratorium on GM crops. That was the environment that was operating in those trials. Half of those instances relate to an environment of having a moratorium in place because it was limited to certain sites across Western Australia. The very fact that our processes are good enough to pick up an incident highlights the integrity of our processes. That is exactly what happens.

This question just highlights the ignorance of the member for Collie–Preston with respect to agricultural issues. Our grain handling systems have been good enough to handle a range of varieties of grain into a range of markets. From time to time they have contamination —

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: They do. It is a fact. Industry is measured on its capacity to respond to those issues. That is exactly what happened in the trial and that is exactly what happens throughout our grain handling systems.