

GENETICALLY MODIFIED WHEAT TRIALS — MERREDIN

6303. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

In relation to the genetically modified (GM) wheat trials being conducted by the CSIRO and Grains Research & Development Corporation, on a property in the Wheatbelt town of Merredin, I ask:

- (a) what amount of funding is the Department of Agriculture and Food receiving from CSIRO to conduct the wheat trial at Merredin;
- (b) how much in funding has the West Australian government committed to the wheat trials at Merredin;
- (c) have security or anti-contamination measures been put in place at the 0.3904 hectare site at Merredin, and
 - (i) what was the total cost of these security measures;
 - (ii) who paid for the security measures; and
- (d) why is the Department of Agriculture and Food WA supporting the CSIRO and the Office of Gene Technology Regulator field trial when the Grain Growers Limited Stakeholder Report of 2011, titled *What the World Wants from Australian Wheat* says “GM wheat would not be acceptable for the Australian, North Asian and European markets in the foreseeable future?”

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) \$62 660
- (b) Nil
- (c) Yes
 - (i) The total cost for the security measures for the entire 5 hectare complex was \$407 188.
 - (ii) These costs were included in the overall construction costs of the facility.
- (d) As DAFWA is an industry development agency it has the responsibility to facilitate the conduct of field trials of any crops which may be of future benefit to the State’s agricultural industry.