

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA CROPS

5698. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

In relation to reports that 8 per cent of all of Western Australia's canola seeding for 2010 was Genetically Modified (GM), I ask:

- (a) does the Minister concur that eight per cent of Western Australia's canola crops planted last year were GM canola crops;
- (b) what was the percentage of GM canola grain that was handled last year at the CBH Group; and
- (c) does the Minister expect that, regardless of the percentage of GM canola crops planted, the percentage of grain handled at the end of the season would equate to the same amount?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) Yes
- (b) CBH Group have advised that CBH Group received around 700,000 tonnes of canola during the 2010–11 harvest and around seven per cent of the received canola was classified as CAG1 or GM canola.
- (c) No. The percentage of GM canola grain handled at the end of each season will be driven by the area sown to GM and non-GM canola, the geographic distribution of crops, the seasonal conditions at each crop site and the yield of each crop. GM canola sowings are unlikely to be evenly distributed across the total canola production zone.