

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA — INQUIRY REQUEST

Petition

HON SALLY TALBOT (South West) [3.05 pm]: I should note that this petition was actually handed to Hon Lynn MacLaren and me and I am not sure whether some administrative oversight has put them all in my name. However, I present a petition containing 4 819 signatures couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

In 2010 the Minister for Agriculture and Food Terry Redman allowed the commercial release of genetically modified (GM) canola, despite the majority of West Australians being opposed. Just one year on we are seeing contamination problems — proving that the segregation of GM canola is impossible. GM crops pose risks to our health, our environment and our valuable export markets.

We the undersigned residents of Western Australia are opposed to the cultivation of genetically modified canola in WA.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council initiate an inquiry into how the decision to lift the moratorium was made in the face of overwhelming public opposition. The inquiry should include an analysis of the current and potential economic impacts of the decision on rural industries. It should also include an investigation into the likely impacts of the Government's recent sale to Monsanto of a 19.9 per cent stake in its crop breeding company InterGrain and whether any impropriety has taken place.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 3379.]