

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA — ROAD VERGES

1217. Hon DARREN WEST to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) Who is responsible for destroying genetically modified canola plants that contaminate road verges across the state?
- (2) Who is responsible for monitoring that GM canola plants that contaminate road verges are destroyed?
- (3) What penalty applies should GM canola plants that contaminate road verges not be destroyed?
- (4) Have any penalties, warnings or prosecutions been made over the failure to clear GM canola-contaminated road verges?
- (5) Does the minister consider contamination of road verges by GM canola a threat to premium non-GM markets?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) Genetically modified canola plants found on road verges would have no different status from any other plant found on these verges. Any related responsibility for these plants would rest with the entity responsible generally for the verges. In most cases this is the relevant local government authority.
- (3) No penalty applies.
- (4) No, as no offence is involved.
- (5) No.