

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA TRIALS — DEPARTMENT REPORT

744. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

- (1) Is the Minister for Agriculture aware of a detailed report being prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Food examining the implications of genetically modified canola trials in Western Australia?
- (2) Why is the Minister allowing the trials of GM canola crops to proceed before the release of the report?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (1) I am aware of a canola discussion paper being prepared over the past two years by a GM Industry Reference Group established by the Hon Kim Chance — the previous Minister for Agriculture and Food. It is not a discussion paper by the Department of Agriculture and Food. The Department provides administrative support to the reference group. The discussion paper focuses on general genetically modified canola issues. It is not specific to the trials.
- (2) The discussion paper was not commissioned by the current Government. While agreeing to the release of the discussion paper it does not impact on the policy position of this Government.