

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA TRIALS — ALLERGIC REACTION

1391. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health

I refer to the GM canola trials and ask —

- (1) Has the Department researched the risk of allergic reactions in humans linked to —
 - (a) GM canola;
 - (b) products containing GM canola; and
 - (c) plants crossed with GM canola?
- (2) If yes to (1) —
 - (a) when was the research conducted;
 - (b) what was the nature of the research;
 - (c) what were the results of the research; and
 - (d) will the Minister please table the research?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?
- (4) Is the Department aware of any research in this area?
- (5) If yes to (4), what action has it taken?
- (6) Is the Department satisfied with the existing regulation of food labelling in respect of —
 - (a) identifying GM content; and
 - (b) protecting consumers with allergies to GM foods?
- (7) If no to (6) —
 - (a) what input has the Department had, to the Department of Agriculture and Food's interdepartmental committee, to review options for the labelling of genetically modified food and initiatives to improve compliance with labelling requirements;
 - (b) what if any input has the Department had, to the Food Standards Australia New Zealand food labelling review; and
 - (c) what if any further action has the Department taken?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) (a)-(c) No.
- (2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.
- (3) Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is responsible for conducting risk and safety assessments of food, including Genetically Modified (GM) Food intended for sale in Australia.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) (a)-(b) Yes.
- (7) (a)-(c) Not applicable.