

LAND FARMING — HEALTH CONCERNS

345. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to reports that dairy product buyer, Fonterra Group, has ceased buying milk produced on land affected by drilling waste in New Zealand, due to concerns about health effects, and I ask:

- (a) is the practice of mining or exploration waste being applied to farming land, known as “land farming”, currently permitted in Western Australia; and
- (b) if yes to (a), will the Minister take action to prevent this practice from occurring?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises:

- (a) Yes, provided all relevant approvals are in place (including but not limited to environmental approval).
- (b) No