

WHEAT HAY — JAPAN EXPORTS

1047. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) Is the minister aware of the developing crisis among Western Australian farmers as exports of wheat hay to Japan have been stopped?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that this is due to volunteer GM canola in the wheat hay?
- (3) Is the minister aware that farmers exporting wheat hay earn a 35 per cent discount on the value of wheat hay if the wheat crop is grown on a GM canola stubble?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) I am not aware of a developing crisis in WA among farmers regarding the export of wheat hay.
- (2) I have information from my department that one Australian consignment to Japan may have been rejected due to soil contamination. Another consignment did have visible traces of canola, and I am informed that the importer/exporter may not have agreed on final pricing.
- (3) Any load not meeting client specifications may be rejected or discounted for a range of reasons. I understand there is no specific discounted rate for growing wheat on GM stubble.