

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CANOLA — SPILL CLEAN-UP

950. Hon GIZ WATSON to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the report by the Conservation Council (WA) tabled in this place during question time on 23 October 2012 concerning an infestation of genetically modified canola plants along Albany Highway north of Williams considered most likely to be the result of seed spread by machinery or vehicles during the clean-up of the 2011 truck spill, with GM plants further being selected and concentrated due to the use of Roundup herbicides on the road reserve, given that Main Roads and/or local governments have responsibility for managing fugitive GM canola plants on road verges.

- (1) What does Main Roads intend to do to manage this extraordinary level of contamination in an area exporting to the GM-free Japanese market?
- (2) When will it be done?
- (3) What monitoring will be done to ensure that these management measures are effective?
- (4) What will it cost?
- (5) What will Main Roads do in future to manage the spread of GM canola from road transport?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. Main Roads WA advises —

- (1) Main Roads will review its roadside maintenance practice.
- (2) It will be done in February 2013.
- (3)–(5) This is pending a review of roadside maintenance practice.