

HEMP — HOP LATENT VIROID

482. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer the minister to reports that hop latent viroid, an infectious plant pathogen that originated in Europe and has now spread to cannabis and hemp crops in the United States to the point at which it is being referred to by some experts as a major concern for cultivators worldwide.

- (1) Have any cases of hop latent viroid been reported to date in Western Australia; and, if so, how many instances and where and when were they reported?
- (2) Does the department of agriculture have any testing processes in place to identify hop latent viroid in locally grown cannabis and hemp crops; and, if so, will the minister please summarise them for the house?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No.
- (2) The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is a commonwealth agency, so I am unable to answer this question.