

CANNABIS — MOSQUITO MITIGATION

83. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer the minister to reports during the recess of mosquito outbreaks in the eastern states with reports of mosquito-borne diseases such as Murray Valley encephalitis and West Nile Kunjin virus on the increase and here in Perth, particularly in Belmont, which is in my electorate of East Metropolitan, where high tides in the Swan River have led to excessive mosquito breeding.

- (1) Is the minister aware that cannabis has been scientifically proven to be one of the few plants that actively repel mosquitos when grown freely outdoors?

Hon Sue Ellery: Is there anything cannabis can't do?

Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER: I doubt it.

- (2) What measure does the McGowan government have in place to mitigate against mosquito outbreaks?
- (3) Why does this administration continue to block the introduction of home-grown small amounts of cannabis when it could clearly reduce the incidence of those dangerous pests across our suburbs?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) State and local governments collaborate effectively through the contiguous local authorities group.

I will check this because it does not make sense the way it has been written. Sorry, I will give the honourable member a checked answer when we next sit.