

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 1513**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 28 October 2008**

**MRS PRATT** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to reports that the World Food Organisation, which buys grain to feed the starving, would not purchase South African maize because it was contaminated with GMO maize, and as the European Union and many other countries will not buy GMO produce or GMO contaminated produce, nor will Kelloggs and Woolworths—

- (1) What GMO crops have been approved in Queensland?
- (2) What measures have been put in place to ensure non-GMO crops are not contaminated whilst on farm or held in storage?
- (3) Did tests conducted by the European Union on 31 July 2008 show genetically modified grain fed to animals showed unacceptable levels of toxicity?

**ANSWER:**

- (1) The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) has approved field trials in Queensland of genetically modified (GM) papaya, pineapple, cotton and sugar cane. The OGTR has also given Australia-wide approval for the commercial release of GM cotton and GM canola varieties. However, only GM cotton is grown in Queensland on a commercial basis.
- (2) GM crops, either commercially or for research purposes, are produced under protocols approved by the OGTR. Where necessary to manage risks to the environment or human health, specific provisions for the storage and handling of GM crops are included in the OGTR protocols, for example, the destruction of crops that been harvested as part of a field trial when the harvested product is no longer of use. For commercial production where there is a market-based requirement for the separation of non-GM and GM crops, supply chain protocols are negotiated and established between the buyer and seller of the crop and maintained through supply chain arrangements to provide assurances that the identity of the crop is preserved from production to consumption.
- (3) Consultation with Australian authorities has been unable to identify the European testing results referred to in the question, and the Department is therefore not aware of such tests if they exist. However, the OGTR takes into consideration scientific data relevant to the assessment of the risk to human health or the environment in its regulatory decisions regarding GM crops.