

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October

Question: E11-099

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: GM WHEAT CROPS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

What monitoring or surveillance system is in place to determine if GM wheat has found its way off site or into the human or animal feed supply?

Answer:

Genetically Modified (GM) wheat field trials are subject to strict containment conditions imposed by the Gene Technology Regulator, and wheat from these trials is not permitted to enter the commercial human or animal food supplies. There have been no breaches of containment with any of these field trials.

The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) has an ongoing and active program of monitoring for compliance with licence conditions, including spot checks. OGTR monitoring of field trials focuses on compliance with licence conditions designed to restrict the potential for dissemination and persistence of the GM crops in the environment.