

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-100

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: GM WHEAT CROPS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

During 2006-2007 a large portion of the American rice harvest (which is non-GM) was contaminated with several experimental GM rice varieties, including varieties not approved for human consumption. The cause of that contamination is still not known – Bayer are reported to have claimed that the cause was an ‘Act of God’. US rice growers lost contracts, crops and livelihoods. Many markets were closed to them. Clean-up is estimated to have cost over US \$1 billion. In this context, what guarantees can you make that there will be no contamination of our non-GM wheat supplies?

Answer:

See response to Question E11-099.