

SHEEP INDUSTRY

**1414. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

I refer to my question without notice 1072 regarding the meat processing capacity constraints and market conditions that currently prevail within the Western Australian sheep industry.

- (1) What industry groups has the minister met with specific to this issue since 19 September 2023?
- (2) Can the minister outline the analysis that has been undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to ascertain the scale, potential economic impacts, animal welfare implications and mental health concerns that have arisen as a result of this issue?
- (3) What strategies have been put in place to address these issues?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

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

- (1) I meet with industry participants regularly. Since 19 September 2023, I have been briefed by industry representatives and advocacy groups at a round table on dry season response arranged at my request by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. I have also met with the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority and Minerva Foods. In addition, I have had discussions with red meat producers and processors at a number of events since 19 September 2023, including: the Perth Royal Show presidents dinner; the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA conference; the Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association conference in Broome; and at industry events in Mt Magnet, Kalgoorlie and Esperance. Most recently, I spoke with The Livestock Collective at the Farmer on your Plate event on Saturday, 4 November 2023.
- (2) The Western Australian Meat Industry Authority and senior staff from DPIRD are in contact with meat processors in Western Australia to monitor overall capacity for processing of sheep in WA and to identify issues that might limit ongoing capability or expansion. DPIRD continues to utilise its industry networks and intelligence to monitor the situation.
- (3) A dry season response team has been established by DPIRD that is monitoring and providing support to the WA livestock sector. This includes provision of technical information on how to manage sheep in the current season. Information from the round table has been integrated into the dry season response.