

BOYANUP SALEYARD

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

I refer to the minister's response to question without notice 490 asked in the Legislative Council on 20 May 2020 and the current considerations by the Shire of Capel to lease the Boyanup saleyards to the Western Australian Livestock Salesman's Association.

- (1) Is government approval for the Shire of Capel to lease the saleyards to WALSA conditional on more open access arrangements being put in place?
- (2) If yes to (1), what access arrangements has the government specified and what mechanisms has the government put in place to ensure that this occurs?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?
- (4) Given that the current access arrangements at the saleyards are the subject of an investigation by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, why has the minister given approval for the leasing process to proceed?

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(4) As the member is aware, the saleyards are on state-owned land that is vested in the shire and the shire leases the land to the current lessee, WALSA. We have supported the proposal for a new lease, and we will continue to support that. Obviously, everyone would like more open access, but there has to be a degree of commerciality around business. We have emphasised the need for the facility to meet current animal welfare standards, and we understand that that will be embedded in the new arrangements. I am not sure that there is an investigation. I think the matter has certainly been referred to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. The act of referral alone, of course, cannot be taken as evidence of anti-competitive conduct. But if the ACCC is investigating, we will await its report.