

ANIMAL ACTIVISM — ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMMENTS

622. Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the Attorney General's description of vegan anti-animal cruelty activists as "mushy headed" and his explanation on 23 May 2019 before the Legislative Assembly estimates committee —

... they are mushy headed in the sense that they think that, because of where they have arrived for what they regard as their own personal moral code, this puts them above the law and that, in prosecution of their own moral code, they are going to shut down an industry.

- (1) Does he regard anti-abortion protesters as mushy headed because their moral code obliges them to object to abortion?
- (2) Does he regard anti-live sheep transport activists as mushy headed because they seek to shut down the live sheep transport industry?
- (3) Does he regard the Roe 8 protesters as mushy headed because they sought to prevent lawful work on the Beeliar wetlands?
- (4) Given the importance that the Attorney General places on preventing vegan activists from trespassing or interfering with lawful activities and that the Minister for Health is proposing to restrict the right of peaceful assembly in respect of those who oppose abortion, will the Attorney General extend his proposed changes to the law to equally protect all whose lawful activities are threatened by protesters; and, if not, why not?

The PRESIDENT: Minister, before I give you the call to respond, I just remind the member who posed the question of standing order 105, which says —

- (1) Questions shall —
 - (a) be concise; and
 - (b) not seek an opinion or a legal interpretation or opinion.

I listened carefully to that question that you put and a number of parts to that question seek an opinion of the relevant minister. I say to the minister in response that you do not have to reply to those parts of the question that were seeking an opinion, but you may reply to the other parts of the question that were not.

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

Thank you, Madam President, for your advice.

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I am pleased to provide the following answer.

(1)–(4) No.