

LIVE EXPORT — ANIMAL MISTREATMENT

**771. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

- (1) Has the minister seen the graphic video images from Jordan shown on *Lateline* last night of Australian sheep killed while still conscious and left to bleed on the street?
- (2) Is this practice permissible in Western Australia?
- (3) In Western Australian abattoirs are sheep required to be stunned before they are slaughtered?
- (4) What is the purpose of pre-stunning an animal before slaughter?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

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

- (1) No, I have not, but my department advises that the images from *Lateline* showed unacceptable handling and slaughter of sheep at roadside stalls outside approved supply chains in Jordan. The matter is under investigation by the federal Department of Agriculture.
- (2) No.
- (3) All cattle and the vast majority of sheep processed in WA are stunned first, including those slaughtered to meet halal conditions. An exception to pre-slaughter stunning is allowed under the “Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production and Transportation of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption”—AS 4696:2007—for a small number of sheep in WA, less than 60 a year on average, which are processed to meet kosher requirements.
- (4) The purpose of stunning is to render the animal unconscious before slaughter.