

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE — ERIC BALL

527. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

My question without notice, of which some notice was given, is asked on behalf of Hon Ken Travers, who is out of the house on urgent parliamentary business.

- (1) Was any potential conflict of interest identified prior to appointing Mr Eric Ball as a member of the review into animal welfare investment and administration?
- (2) If yes to (1), what was the potential conflict?
- (3) How will the potential conflict be managed?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question on behalf of Hon Ken Travers.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Mr Eric Ball declared a potential conflict of interest resulting from his past longstanding association with the RSPCA, including 18 years as the president and chair of RSPCA WA.
- (3) Appropriate governance processes are in place for identifying and managing conflicts of interest with respect to the matters to be addressed by the animal welfare review panel.

There is one other thing. Mr Ball has stood aside at his own doing and I have accepted that he will stand aside. I will notify the house as soon as I have somebody else to replace him on that panel.