

LIVE EXPORT — CONTINUATION

**500. Hon KEN BASTON to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

What measures is the minister taking to ensure that the live sheep trade remains available to Western Australian sheep farmers?

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

The member will understand that the people who have been responsible for the effective shutting down of this industry have indeed been the exporters that have allowed these appalling circumstances that the member would have seen on the *60 Minutes* program to occur and the federal government and its absolute lack of any action over the last five years to ensure that this industry is properly regulated. As I have said repeatedly to the industry since we were elected, it is absolutely critical that if we are to keep this industry going and to keep the social licence, we have to have a credible industry, we have to have decent standards and they have to be properly regulated, and people have to have confidence that when people have breached those standards and the law, they are being brought to account. Of course, the role that we have been playing since last year is to make sure that the industry understands that. In February this year when we became aware that there had been another mass mortality incident on one of these vessels, we began an investigation into the exporter and the related parties. We also urged the federal government when this happened and after it saw the community response to that *60 Minutes* footage to implement a pause during those high-risk months—the 10-week period from July to mid-September. If the federal government was to continue to allow that to happen, that is a very high-risk strategy. Everyone is agreed: if there is one more mass mortality incident, that industry will be dead. Ultimately, the federal minister has effectively arrived at that position with the suspension of the licence of Emanuel Exports, after Livestock Shipping Services had already withdrawn from the trade. We have an effective pause over those high summer months. We will continue to do all we can to make sure that this industry retains some credibility by ensuring that it is properly regulated and that wrongdoers are brought to account.