

LIVE EXPORT

**705. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

I refer to the minister's support for the continuation of a live sheep export industry as previously stated in this place. Does the minister acknowledge that the decision to ban live sheep exports will cost Western Australian jobs, have a significant financial costs and damage our reputation as a reliable export-driven economy?

**The PRESIDENT:** I did not hear the first part so I am not sure whether it sought an opinion but please continue, minister.

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

Thank you, President. As noted, I am yet to receive a full economic assessment. Obviously, there will be a number of factors related to ending live sheep export at some time in the future. There will be an economic impact with regard to the value of live sheep exports; however, there will also be, hopefully, an economic gain with regard to more onshore processing. That assessment is still happening and there are a lot of unknown quantities. That is work that I have asked the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to look into.