

MINERVA FOODS

**1019. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

I refer to reports of the closure of the meat processing plant operated at Shark Lake near Esperance by Minerva Foods.

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing on the status of the plant from either the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development or Minerva Foods?
- (2) If so, when was the minister briefed?
- (3) What actions is DPIRD undertaking to —
  - (a) assess the impacts on the livestock producers that utilised the facility; and
  - (b) identify alternative processing options, given current processing capacity constraints and prevailing market conditions?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) DPIRD provided a briefing to me this week. I have requested a meeting with the operators of the Shark Lake abattoir.
- (3) (a)–(b) It is disappointing that Minerva Foods has made a commercial decision to suspend operations at the Shark Lake facility. I am aware that other processors have increased operations to reduce the impact on WA sheep producers. Although the closure of the Shark Lake facility will have an impact on the Esperance community, it is not expected to have a significant impact on the state's red meat processing capacity as the Shark Lake operation was relatively small.