

KIMBERLEY MEAT COMPANY — VOLUNTARY ADMINISTRATION

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

I refer to revelations that the Kimberley Meat Company has entered voluntary administration. What action is the minister taking to minimise the potentially devastating impact of the closure of Western Australia's only northern abattoir?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the member for the question. I, too, heard media reports today that the Kimberley Meat Company has gone into administration. I did hear a rumour of that yesterday afternoon, and I took the opportunity to speak to some large pastoralists in the region to try to understand what concerns they may have. It is obviously very early days. The Kimberley Meat Company received significant government support after the Kimberley floods. We provided financial support to manage the transfer of cattle from Kununurra and Wyndham by sea to allow cattle to go through the Broome port to the facility, which is near Derby. I do not have to hand the financial support that was offered back then. At this stage, it is obviously early days. I have heard talk that there are commercial entities interested in buying that facility, and I understand that the facility had been on the market and offered for sale. I have certainly asked the agency to keep me informed as a matter of urgency.