

LIVE EXPORT — STOCKING RATES

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

I refer to the proposed phase-out of live sheep exports by the commonwealth government.

- (1) Has the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development undertaken an assessment of the immediate short-term impacts of the proposed ban, including the current carrying capacity of the agricultural sector and whether it is sufficient to cater for an increase in stock numbers being held in Western Australia, and potential animal welfare risks associated with increased stocking rates and lack of available feed?
- (2) If yes to (1), can the minister please table the assessment?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) There have been more sheep live exported by ship in the summer of 2022–23 than in the previous year, but a decline in the number of sheep transported to the east coast. This is not associated with any future planned phase-out of live sheep exports.