

AdBLUE — SUPPLY

1140. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the critical impact on the Western Australian trucking network and by extension the WA agricultural supply chain of the shortage of the anti-pollutant AdBlue.

- (1) What engagement and or action has the government undertaken to secure a reliable, continuous supply of AdBlue to the Western Australian trucking and agriculture sectors?
- (2) What is the government's contingency plan for delivery supply chains to ensure supermarkets receive deliveries, including food, over the Christmas and new year period?
- (3) What certainty can the minister provide to the WA trucking and agriculture industries, WA supermarkets and the Western Australian public that a reliable and secure supply of AdBlue will be obtained?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for that extremely interesting question.

- (1)–(3) We have been watching what is going on. It is very interesting that elsewhere across the nation everyone has clearly put the federal government in the spotlight because this product is almost entirely imported into this country and China has recently put a trading halt on the importation of this product. Possibly it is something to do with the fantastic relationships that Scott Morrison has managed to generate. I do not know whether members opposite keep in touch with Minister Angus Taylor, but according to a statement he put out today, there is not really a problem. He says —

There are currently in excess of 15 million litres of AdBlue supplies on hand, which is equivalent to close to 5 weeks of the business-as-usual demand.

There are multiple shipments of refined urea currently on their way to Australia, which are estimated to provide over 2 weeks of additional supply ...

Clearly, there is a problem. We know there is a problem. It has been exacerbated in a way by the panic buying that has gone on, according to the reports. We are urging—I think everyone is urging—people to not go out and panic buy AdBlue; do not make this into another toilet paper saga! Angus Taylor appears to believe that there are adequate supplies. I note that people in the trucking industry, in our dealings with them, have shown that they are pretty angry with the feds. They are certainly concerned that the feds sold 27 000 litres of the base manufacturing agent to help out South Koreans when the federal government was not being terribly open and opaque with the local industry, seemingly. Through the Department of Transport, we are working with the federal government. This is principally a federal government issue, but we are certainly monitoring what is happening here. I suggest that the member get on to Angus Taylor and raise these concerns with him.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, minister. It is a good thing that we started question time a few minutes early. I would invite members to have regard to standing order 106 regarding concise and relevant answers.