

WOOL PRODUCTION — FORECASTS

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

I refer to WA wool production forecasts.

- (1) Has the minister received the forecast for WA sheep numbers for the following seasons —
 - (a) 2024–2025; and
 - (b) 2025–2026?
- (2) Can the minister please provide those forecasts?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) Does the minister acknowledge federal Labor’s policy to ban the export of live sheep is at least partly responsible for the fall in numbers?
- (5) Should forecasts project a loss in sheep numbers, what economic modelling has been done to assess the impact on the industry?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The WA sheep industry is facing a range of challenges, including a very dry season, increased interstate transfers, reduced joining rates and an anecdotal reduction in conception rates.
- (5) The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development will consider any actions, including economic modelling, once the Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee releases its final report on forecast sheep numbers.