

**LIVE EXPORT — FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY**

*Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt)** [12.50 pm]: I rise to support the thousands of people and hundreds of businesses and livelihoods that are linked to the live sheep export industry, and to express my deep anger and concern about, and opposition to, the federal Labor government's decision to shut it down. I stand by those farmers, truck drivers, shipping companies, livestock agents, veterinarians, port workers, shearers, feedlot businesses and all involved in the sector. No legitimate industry should ever be closed for political reasons or to suit activist agendas. Although the industry has faced challenges, it has undertaken significant reforms that have seen best practice animal welfare outcomes achieved on an international scale. The trade employs about 3 500 people along the supply chain, with 80 per cent of those based here in Western Australia, many in my electorate of Central Wheatbelt.

Labor's decision is devastating. It is driven by the desire to appease animal activists and capture inner-city votes. The Albanese Labor government is no friend of Western Australia, nor is the McGowan state government. I have never seen a less enthusiastic, muted and defeatist attitude than that shown by Minister Jackie Jarvis and Premier McGowan when it comes to standing up for Western Australians on this issue. If they truly supported the industry, they would be on the front foot every day railing against this decision. Instead, they shrug their shoulders and relinquish this important industry to a political hatchet job by their own party and Prime Minister. The industry and its leaders should demand more of the state's Minister for Agriculture and Food and Western Australia should punish the Albanese government at the next election. Labor is no friend of regional Western Australia.