

LIVE EXPORT — PROPOSED MORATORIUM

209. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I start by congratulating the new member for Cottesloe on his ascension to this Parliament and to welcome him on behalf of the Nationals. I also thank all the members who have reached out to our family over the last few months; it is very much appreciated.

I refer the Premier to his Minister for Agriculture and Food's comments yesterday that live export should be banned over the northern summer.

- (1) Does the Premier agree with his minister's proposed three-month blanket ban?
- (2) Did the government consider the significant impact this would have on producers, business and communities reliant on this trade?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Central Wheatbelt for the question.

- (1)–(2) Obviously the imagery and the story we saw on *60 Minutes* the other night was very concerning and very distressing for all Australians but also, I think, for people in the industry. That imagery obviously means that Australians, more broadly, lose confidence in some people in the industry. I think that would be a fair statement. I suspect if any of us consulted our communities, whether regional or city, we would find that people were concerned about what they saw on that TV program. I certainly was, and I watched the entire program the other evening.

The federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Mr Littleproud, has been very forthright in his language, which I found a little surprising, considering that he is a National Party minister from Queensland. He has been very forthright in his language in relation to how disturbing the imagery was and how he thinks something should occur. The Western Australian Minister for Agriculture and Food, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, has also been very forthright in her language and she has put some options forward, including those with regard to the northern summer, during which temperatures can reach as high as 50 degrees Celsius. The ships, as I understand it, are not air-conditioned. There obviously needs to be some reappraisal —

An opposition member interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: They are not; obviously they are not.

There needs to be some reappraisal of how we put in place conditions that ensure that we avoid, as far as humanly possible, what we saw the other evening occurring again.

The Minister for Agriculture and Food, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, has put forward this proposition —

[Interruption from the gallery.]

Mr M. McGOWAN: Obviously people feel strongly about this issue—I know they do across the community—but I think what the Minister for Agriculture and Food has put forward is something that now needs to be on the table for consideration. We do not want to rush to a knee-jerk or a reaction that is precipitous without all the issues and options being considered, but she has been warning the industry for a long time that something like this could come along and cause a loss of confidence in the industry from the Australian community. I think some people in the industry have not been listening at all to the warnings she has provided. She advises me that a lot of serious people in the industry are in agreement with her that some of the people have not acted appropriately, and therefore this has now occurred. Therefore, we need to consider what actions are out there that we can take to make sure that we do not see those sorts of things occur again.