

LIVE EXPORT — PROPOSED MORATORIUM

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

I have a supplementary question. Why is the government so determined to destroy an industry that delivers so much and is a vital part of the agricultural sector?

Several members interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Will the Premier rule out a summer ban?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on my right, I will hear the supplementary question in silence. Start again, member.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Why is the government so determined to undermine a sector that is so vital to our agricultural industry? Will the Premier rule out a summer ban for live sheep export?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, your Premier is on his feet.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I have answered the question as best I can; that is, I think we should do everything we can to enhance animal welfare in this industry. Members would note that when ships go to Qatar at the height of high summer, as we saw in some of those photos, the humidity and the heat is virtually unendurable for the sheep involved. As a state, as a people and as a nation, we should be doing our best to exhibit the highest qualities of animal welfare.

I am advised that Minister Littleproud, the Queensland minister, wanted to put in place a ban on the industry over the high summer months, and he was rolled by members of his cabinet. They have obviously come up with a compromise proposal. I support the initiatives they have put in place to improve the welfare of sheep. As a state government and as people, I think we should be doing as much as possible, or more, to make sure it happens. I will be meeting representatives shortly and telling them that they have not done their industry any good or any service whatsoever the way they have acted.