

CATTLE EXPORT FACILITIES — KIMBERLEY PASTORALISTS

234. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

What assistance will the state government offer Kimberley pastoralists in obtaining alternative suitable cattle export facilities, given the closure of the Wyndham yards later this year?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Nigel Hallett for some notice of the question.

The Wyndham cattle yards are privately owned and the owner has decided to close the yards in September 2008. I will ask the Department of Agriculture and Food to provide me with an assessment of the impact of this decision on live cattle exports from the region, taking into account the other facilities that are operating in the Kimberley. I acknowledge, as the member's colleague Hon Ken Baston has brought to the attention of the house, that there has been a diminution in saleyard services and livestock handling services in Broome as well.