

ANIMAL ACTIVISM

**61. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I refer to recent confrontations between animal activist groups and primary producers, including incidents in Harvey and Muchea, and threats made in Northam. What is the government doing to deal with the increasingly disturbing and potentially illegal behaviour that threatens those in the agricultural sector and their ability to safely and lawfully conduct their business?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question. I have seen some of the imagery on the news of some of the behaviour of activists attempting to intimidate farmers going about their lawful business, and I condemn that behaviour. I condemned it last week when it was brought to my attention. I note some of the activists have been storming restaurants in Northbridge and interrupting people while they are eating their dinner. All taking that sort of action does is turn the public against them, it turns the government against them and turns the general community against them. No-one endorses that sort of illegal activity.

Following the events of last week, the advice I have received from the Minister for Police is that the Western Australian Farmers Federation, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA and the WA Police Force are engaging in a roundtable discussion, or a meeting, to talk about what action police can take. I look forward to police using the resources at their disposal, but also the laws in relation to trespass and harassment to prosecute those people engaged in this conduct.