

LIVE EXPORT — PROPOSED MORATORIUM

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

I have a supplementary question. Since Hon Alannah MacTiernan has lobbied the federal agriculture minister for action that could potentially destroy an industry she is supposed to support, will the Premier relieve her of her duties as Minister for Agriculture and Food?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

You cannot have your head in the sand about this issue.

Several members interjected.

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

Mr M. McGOWAN: I want to be as respectful as I can.

Ms M.J. Davies: I appreciate that, but a blanket ban is not the answer.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I was asked the other day, do I support closing down the industry, and I said no. A lot of farmers, communities, truck drivers and the like rely upon the industry. Do I support greater levels of chilled lamb being processed by Australian abattoirs? Of course—if we can move towards more of that, it would be great for Australia. But the member cannot put her head in the sand and say there is not an issue there. If these images keep coming out, and if this sort of thing keeps occurring, we will continue to see a growth in the number of Australians who want to see the industry close. Surely, it is incumbent on all of us—National Party, Liberal Party and Labor Party members of Parliament—to work towards a solution that stops it occurring in future.