

ANIMAL ACTIVISM

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

I refer to the tough laws that the Premier's Attorney General has promised to introduce to deal with the illegal and threatening behaviour of animal activists. Why has the government not given this proposed legislation priority for drafting, securing cabinet approval and introduction into Parliament?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

This is an important issue, and I know that a lot of regional communities and farming families would like to see some action taken here. Obviously, the government has made it a priority, and we are working on it. Obviously, when we draft legislation, we have to take account of every potential nuance and what could potentially happen, to make sure that we deal with those things. There are some complexities around this. We are working hard, and the Attorney General, as members know, is working hard on the issue.

The issue itself has come into greater prominence because there has been more activity by people invading properties and the like in recent months. Obviously, we are working hard on it. I would just make the point that activists in this field have been around for a long time. In eight and a half years in office, the National Party did nothing about it.