

MIDLAND SALEYARDS, SALE

**34. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries :**

- (1) What is the sum expected to be generated from the sale of the Midland saleyards?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of the new saleyard complex at Muchea?
- (3) Has the balance of the sale proceeds been committed to another saleyard project or any other project directly related to agriculture?
- (4) If not, what will the excess funds be used for?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

I thank Hon Barry House for some notice of the question. However, I will need to add further detail to the prepared answer.

- (1)-(4) I will present a submission on the relocation of the Midland saleyards to Cabinet in the near future. This submission outlines the estimated incomes and expenditure associated with the project. I will advise the honourable member following consideration by Cabinet.

That answer could have been more detailed in response to (3). Although the balance of sale proceeds has not been committed to another saleyard project or any other directly related project, I have made no secret of the fact that other saleyard projects need to be considered when making decisions regarding Muchea or any other location for the Midland replacement saleyard. Although Cabinet has not yet considered that view, the reasons I have for holding it are that if the proceeds from the sale of the Midland saleyards land were wholly committed to the Midland saleyards replacement site and it resulted in that facility being debt-free, the livestock producers using the Midland replacement saleyards would be using modern and debt-free yards. However, livestock producers in other parts of the State - for example, those who use Katanning, Mt Barker and Boyanup saleyards - would be using a saleyard that either already carries a debt or has an expansion or relocation need and will ultimately carry a debt. It seemed to be inequitable to apply all the proceeds from the sale of the Midland site to the Midland replacement site. However, we are still refining that matter at this stage and the position that will be put to Cabinet.