

CARBON FARMING — PASTORAL LEASES

177. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to recent media articles indicating the minister's apparent support for the development of carbon farming on pastoral lands.

- (1) Can the minister give an indication of when a decision will be made with regard to rangelands participation in carbon reduction under the Australian government's carbon farming initiative?
- (2) Has the minister received any advice on whether carbon farming is possible under the current legislation?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question and for his interest in carbon farming.

- (1) We are working with pastoralists and companies aggregating carbon farming opportunities who want to submit an expression of interest for the federal government's emissions reduction fund with a view to participating in the auction in June 2018.
- (2) Under the rules of the fund, pastoralists would need the approval of the landowner to receive carbon credits. The landowner for pastoralists is the state of Western Australia. We are working through all issues that need to be taken into account in giving such approval. Legislative change may not be needed.