

**LIVE EXPORT — FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY**

*Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt)** [12.56 pm]: I rise again to update the house on the impact of Labor's decision to ban the live export of sheep on communities and businesses in regional Western Australia. In today's edition of *Countryman*, there is a report of a farmer who took out an advertisement in a newspaper to offload his top-quality May–June-drop lambs. He told the media that he had been forced down this path as there was no future for the lambs as all producers scramble to find markets amidst collapsing sheep prices and rock-bottom confidence in the sector. He said there was no demand for merino lambs, which have been selling for as low as \$1 a head—less than the cost of transport to the saleyard. Local agents report they are unable to sell ewe or wether lambs, which is a problem for growers who need to move the stock due to the approaching summer. This farmer is considering getting out of sheep farming and moving to cropping exclusively due to the uncertainty in the sector. He said that although he managed to get \$15 a head—down from \$100 last year—as a result of the advert, he is left with lambs, and will have to shoot about 270 to make way for the next drop. In short, if a farmer cannot sell the lambs and cannot run them due to feed and space constraints, they can only shoot them.

At the end of the article, journalist Adam Poulsen reports that, like many farmers, this person put the collapse in prices squarely on the Albanese government's looming phase-out of the live sheep export industry. Premier Cook and Minister Jarvis must do more to save this legitimate sector. Lip-service is not good enough. Hollow words will do nothing. We need action.