

LIVE EXPORT — TRANSITION PACKAGE

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

I refer to news reports today that Livestock Shipping Services, the second biggest sheep exporter in the state, will halt trading from WA over the northern summer period.

- (1) Has the Premier's government considered a transition package to support sheep farmers through the potential loss of this market?
- (2) Is the government meeting with our trading partners to clarify its position on live export?
- (3) Has the government been in discussions with the agricultural finance sector about how the loss of the market will impact farm businesses in Western Australia?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(3) I think that company has made a commercial decision in relation to the northern summer and has ceased operations. As I understand it, there are other corporations that are livestock shippers, one of which is under investigation for breaches of the Animal Welfare Act. If corporations want to make commercial decisions, that is a matter for them. It has made that decision. I urge the industry, as I have on a regular basis in this place, to do its utmost to improve animal welfare standards to make sure that we do not see any more incidents such as those that occurred with the *Awassi Express*, and to improve its game. I stand by that. In relation to commercial matters between the shippers and the exporters, I urge them to get together and resolve whatever issues there might be.