

CATTLE IMPORTATION — LIVER FLUKE SCREENING

**Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

- (1) Given the current desire for expansion of the Western Australian dairy herd via the importation of cattle, can the minister give a guarantee to Western Australian producers that the protocols for importing cattle into the state will be adhered to?
- (2) What are the specific protocols for liver fluke screening in this instance?
- (3) Does the Department of Agriculture and Food have sufficient inspectors to undertake this task at present?
- (4) How many inspectors with this qualification are currently based in the south west region?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

I thank Hon Nigel Hallett for providing some notice of the question.

Given the current and recent history of the number of exports of Western Australian dairy cattle, it seems surprising to be talking about imports, but I recognise it is a very important question.

- (1) Yes, I can assure the honourable member that all protocols for introducing cattle into Western Australia will be adhered to in order to safeguard Western Australia's livestock health status.
- (2) The specific protocols for liver fluke are, first, a negative faecal test for liver fluke eggs prior to arrival at the WA border; second, a treatment for liver fluke at the border, or, more correctly, the Kalgoorlie quarantine yard; third, a treatment for liver fluke 21 to 35 days after arrival in Western Australia; fourth, a negative faecal test for liver fluke 90 to 100 days after arrival in Western Australia; and, fifth, the imported animals are under a surveillance quarantine order and required to be kept on high, dry ground until all of the above requirements have been satisfied.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Department of Agriculture and Food has 10 inspectors gazetted to undertake these tasks based in the dairy farming areas of Western Australia, which include the Perth, Bunbury, Waroona, Vasse and Manjimup offices.