

MUCHEA SALEYARDS

1145. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

- (1) What is the current status of proposals, if any, for the construction of the Muchea saleyards?
- (2) May I have a briefing of those proposals, if there are any?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for that question.

- (1) The current status of the establishment of the new Muchea saleyards begins from the cabinet decision to sell the Midland land at an appropriate time, according to the development of the Muchea land. The original cabinet decision was to seek expressions of interest from private sector developers. Those expressions of interest have been received and analysed in a two-stage process by a steering committee comprised of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Treasury and Finance and an industry reference group that essentially recognises all aspects of the industry, including producers, processors, shippers etc. The advice, which is yet to come to me formally, is not at hand at this stage, although I expect it very soon. When I have that advice, and depending on the advice, I will take a submission to Cabinet in the hope of achieving a quick resolution.

The process was to determine whether the private sector had a place in forming a partnership with government on the establishment of a new saleyard facility, such as has occurred in other States, most notably at Two Wells in South Australia, or Mallala. The informal advice I have at this stage is that although there are some prospects for that to occur, it would be a fairly drawn-out process. I am reminded that that process in South Australia took about a decade to complete. However, Cabinet must consider a number of issues involved with the process that we have been through. It has been an informative process, but it has taken a long time. I am keen to get it resolved.

- (2) The member can have a briefing. However, I would appreciate him giving me two or three weeks before I arrange that for him.