

LIVE SHEEP TRADE

1243. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

- (1) Has the Government calculated the number of jobs which would be created if meat were processed here instead of exporting live animals for slaughter?
- (2) What efforts have been made to establish new processed meat markets to replace the live sheep trade?
- (3) How many abattoirs are in Western Australia?
- (4) Which abattoirs are licensed to export meat?
- (5) Which abattoirs employ slaughtermen who are certified for Halal slaughter?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

- (1) This calculation has not been made, however, both the meat processing and live export sectors make an important economic contribution to the rural sector and the Western Australian economy.
- (2) The Government supports value-adding of agricultural products, and recognises the success of meat processors in exporting a wide range of quality meat products to many destinations, including markets in the Middle East slaughtered to Halal requirements.

The Government recognises that the demand for live sheep in specific market sectors in the Middle East is driven by cultural and religious factors, and that this demand cannot be satisfied by supplying processed meat.

The Western Australian Government's Trade Office in Dubai provides an important role in promoting Western Australia's meat products and in facilitating trade contacts. I visited the region in October 2002 and February 2003 to promote food exports from Western Australia. A Western Australian delegation participated in a food promotion in Dubai in October 2002 and in Gulf Food in Dubai in February 2003. Representatives from three major supermarkets in the Gulf region visited Western Australia in February and July 2003.

At present, the turnoff of sheep is low throughout Australia. Industry organisations are conducting a campaign encouraging producers to increase production of sheep meat to meet export demand.

- (3) 30 commercial abattoirs (excluding educational/institutional).

- (4)-(5) Export Abattoirs

EG Green and Sons, Harvey (Cattle) Certified for Halal slaughter
Nebru Exports, North Dandalup (Cattle) Certified for Halal slaughter
V & V Walsh, Bunbury (Cattle, sheep) Certified for Halal slaughter
Fletcher International, Narrikup (Sheep) Certified for Halal slaughter
WAMMCO, Katanning (Sheep, goats) Certified for Halal slaughter
Hillside Abattoirs, Narrogin (Sheep, cattle) Certified for Halal slaughter
Geraldton Meat Exports, Geraldton (Sheep, goats) Certified for Halal slaughter
Beaufort River Meats, Woodanilling (Sheep, goats) Not certified for Halal slaughter
Exotic Meat Processors, Margaret River (Various) Not certified for Halal slaughter
MGM Exports, Gingin (Goats) Not certified for Halal slaughter
Watsons Foods, Spearwood (Pigs) Not certified for Halal slaughter
Derby Industries, Wooroloo (Pigs) Not certified for Halal slaughter