

KIMBERLEY MEAT COMPANY

212. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the request by the Kimberley Meat Company to move cattle by sea from Wyndham to Broome.

- (1) Has the minister been advised by the commonwealth whether all necessary approvals will be granted to ensure the supply of cattle from the East Kimberley?
- (2) Has the Maritime Union of Australia made any representations opposing the request to the minister or to the federal minister?
- (3) Noting the urgency to supply the Kimberley Meat Company operations, when will these approvals be granted?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The state government has responded to a request from the Kimberley Meat Company for support. The company has been working with my office and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, at my direction, over the past month to achieve a successful outcome for pastoralists east of the Fitzroy River and for KMC employees who have been directly affected by the floods in the Kimberley. Biosecurity issues continue to be front of mind in managing this issue. These approvals are handled by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, a federal agency. We understand that KMC is currently in discussions to finalise these matters prior to shipping commencing.
- (2) The Maritime Union of Australia has not made any representations to me opposing this request. I am not aware of any opposition being raised with the federal government.
- (3) The approvals required are being managed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.