

AGRICULTURE (BIOSECURITY PROTECTION) LEVIES BILL — FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**69. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

I refer to the bill on a biosecurity levy on farmers that was introduced into federal Parliament this week, which will impose yet another tax on Australian farmers, including Western Australian farmers, who are already currently struggling with several pressures including extreme weather conditions reducing harvests, price gouging by the major supermarket buyers and pressure to reduce chemical use and comply with greenhouse gas emission targets.

- (1) Does the Cook government support the bill?
- (2) Has the Cook government been in consultation with farmers about the bill?
- (3) Has the Cook government communicated with federal Labor about the bill; and, if so, what have the communications entailed?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

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

- (1)–(3) Biosecurity is critically important as the risks and pressures are increasing nationally and globally. The bill is before the federal Parliament and is a matter for federal Parliament.