

LIVE EXPORT — FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY

350. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:

I congratulate both the Premier and Deputy Premier on their recent appointments.

I refer to the Albanese government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports from Australia by sea.

- (1) Unlike the former Premier, will the Premier and his Minister for Agriculture and Food stand up for farmers and support the sector to prevent this ban from cutting over 3 500 jobs and a \$130 million industry for WA?
- (2) Can the Premier reassure farmers and supply chain operators that he understands that WA needs this industry for animal welfare and economic reasons and will act to allay the mental anguish being suffered in the industry right now?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. As the member observed, this was an election commitment by the Albanese government, so it is going about its business and following through on that election commitment. Our government's position on this matter has not changed. The government is committed to ensuring the best outcome for the WA sheep supply chain and the wider regional communities that will be impacted. This is a federal government decision and it has a mandate to implement it. The WA government will fight for the best possible outcome for the sheep industry in Western Australia. Most importantly, I encourage everyone with an interest in the sheep industry to have their say during the consultation process. That is the important thing. This is a process; it is not a decision. It is important that people go through the consultation process to make sure that they can influence that decision. The McGowan government previously did a great deal of work to implement new measures to protect the welfare of animals involved in our live sheep export. They were important measures, particularly during the height of summer. The Albanese government has a mandate to implement this commitment and, ultimately, that is a decision for it.