

MIDLAND SALEYARD, DEADLINE

**832. Hon M.J. CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:**

Although this question is without notice, I know that the minister is well and truly aware of the saleyard deadline for Midland and of the obvious benefits to regional development in the Moora area of not only a saleyard but also a feedlot, a feed processing plant and holding yards. What will be the decision-making process with regard to the site - that is, the time frame and process that will be gone through - and will that allow ample time for the Moora proposal to be considered?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

The member's question may well have been triggered by what was reported in the rural press today.

Hon M.J. Criddle: It was.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I have just read that article, which must be read extremely carefully. In the text of the article, I think the point is made that the deadline is the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority's deadline. I understand that 30 November, which is the already once extended deadline, still holds as far as the Meat Industry Authority is concerned. I have told the Moora delegation that I am happy to consider another application for an extension of the deadline. However, I have not received one at this stage. The article was technically correct, but it does not mean that I will pull down the blinds on the Moora proposition.

I will deal with the time frame, leaving aside the question of a somewhat flexible deadline. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure is at this stage making an assessment of the infrastructure needs of the industry, pending the location of the livestock centre in various areas. I expect that will take a considerable time. Although I had hoped that I would be able to make a decision prior to Christmas - order, members!

The PRESIDENT: Quite so, leader. Order!

Hon KIM CHANCE: I thought, Mr President, that you might not have been able to see Hon Ken Travers' unruly behaviour.

Although I had hoped to be able to make a decision prior to Christmas, that is becoming increasingly unlikely. Given the scale of this decision and its importance to the livestock industry in this State over the next 100 years - that has been the life of Midland, so it is a long-term investment - I think it is better to take a little more time to make the right decision than to bolt ahead.

The final part of the member's question was whether the Moora proponents - indeed, the member might have said the Northam proponents as well - will have adequate time to put their case to me.

Hon M.J. Criddle: They are getting anxious.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Yes. As long as they do not waste time getting their proposal to me, I can give the member an assurance that they will have ample time, and I would probably consider a further application for an extension of the deadline until mid December if they ask for it. However, at this stage they have not asked for that.