

E.G. GREEN AND SONS, CLOSURE OF HARVEY ABATTOIR

**353. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:**

I refer the Premier to the serious predicament confronting the beef industry due to the problems of E.G. Green and Sons, to the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry's admission that he has known about the situation for six or seven weeks and to the fact that everybody else has known what has been going on for more than 12 months.

- (1) Why did the government wait until the company had closed its operations and the opening of Parliament before taking the issue seriously by starting to develop a rescue plan for the beef industry?
- (2) Specifically, what action does the government intend to take to ensure that the abattoir reopens immediately to safeguard not only the jobs and incomes of those who work in the beef industry, but also the future of the beef industry?
- (3) In view of the government's failure to act sooner to help avert the current situation, will the Premier guarantee that the company's creditors will receive payment in full?

**Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:**

- (1)-(3) This is a matter for the private sector and it must be dealt with through the proper processes that have been established within our market economy. As I said in my statement earlier, the government wants to establish a proper commercial solution to this issue because that is the only sustainable solution.