

LIVE EXPORT — TRANSITION PACKAGE

**112. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:**

The Premier has said that the federal Labor government's live sheep export ban will be an unnecessary burden — Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Sorry, member, just pause for a moment. I will just ask people to not make farmyard noises! Thank you.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The Premier has said that the federal Labor government's live sheep export ban will be an unnecessary burden and that the Prime Minister should reconsider that ban, which will cost the state about 400 jobs and \$132 million. It has now been revealed that the Premier's own Minister for Agriculture and Food has been in secret talks with Canberra to work out a transition package. Why has the Premier's government capitulated to Canberra and failed to stand up for Western Australian farmers?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier—and only the Premier. Thank you.

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

The first two questions were about our not talking to the federal government enough, and now we are talking to it too much! We have been clear from the start that the new animal welfare measures that are now in place, including the northern summer live export ban, are working and are appropriate. We will continue to advocate for the best possible deal for WA farmers to make sure that our important agricultural industries remain strong into the future. We understand the important role that live sheep exports play in terms of the overall agricultural industry, and our submission to the commonwealth government made it quite clear that if a phase-out is going to go ahead, then significant support for our farmers in the transition is absolutely necessary and a reasonable time frame needs to be set.

If the federal government is going to go ahead with that, I want my Minister for Agriculture and Food in there, getting the best possible deal for WA farmers.

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** What about standing up for them in the first place?

**Mr R.H. COOK:** The member does not want that. He just wants to sit there and continue to harp on about a decision that he disagrees with. He continues to basically bang on about a decision that he does not like: "We don't like the decision." We are getting the best possible deal for WA farmers. That is the expectation of WA farmers, and that is my expectation of one of my ministers.

**Dr A.D. Buti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Education, please desist.