

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — INDONESIAN VISIT

6240. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the Minister's visit to Indonesia on Sunday, 11 September 2011, and the Minister's statement in the House that we need to put in place protocols to ensure that stock are slaughtered in an appropriate manner at abattoirs in Indonesia, and I ask:

- (a) how many abattoirs did the Minister visit while in Indonesia; and
 - (i) how many of these abattoirs were owned by Indonesians;
 - (ii) how many of these abattoirs were owned by Australians;
- (b) did the Minister witness live kills at all of these abattoirs and if not, why not;
- (c) was the Minister aware, before the trip to Indonesia that the abattoirs he planned to visit would not be conducting live kills during the visit; and
- (d) why did the Minister not plan an itinerary to arrange to view like kills, given that the Minister was in Indonesia for four days?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) 3
 - (i) 2
 - (ii) 1
- (b) No, I witnessed live kills at one abattoir. These kills were very professionally handled. My access to abattoirs and viewing of slaughter was subject to negotiation with, and agreement by Indonesian authorities and local industry.
- (c) No. The request to inspect abattoirs during my visit to Indonesia was made through the WA Trade Office in Jakarta at a time when the matter was extremely sensitive. Although I did not witness live kills at the other two abattoirs, I did see first-hand the vigorous upgrading and refurbishment of these facilities taking place to meet the new regulations. I also witnessed the commendable collaboration effort taking place between Meat and Livestock Australia, the Indonesian government and local and Australian industry.
- (d) My itinerary to visit abattoirs was finalised on the ground in Indonesia and did include viewing live kills. It should be noted I was in Indonesia as a guest of the Indonesian government. I am the first Australian minister to visit abattoirs and observe slaughter in Indonesia since the ban.