

MUCHEA SALEYARDS

1517. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

I refer to the new Muchea saleyards. On 19 August the minister answered a question I had asked by saying that expressions of interest for the new Muchea saleyards had been received and analysed by the steering committee, and that he was awaiting the results of that analysis.

- (1) Will the minister give me an indication of the outcome of that decision?
- (2) Will the minister indicate whether any land has been sold at the old Midland site?
- (3) I asked on 19 August for a briefing, which the minister indicated I could have. Can I now have a briefing?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Murray Criddle for his question. I will start with the last question on the briefing, which will run over the issues touched on by the first two parts of the question.

- (3) I am more than happy to provide the honourable member with a briefing, but at this stage I want to provide that briefing at some little time away from now. I will explain why by going to the first and second parts of the question.
- (1)-(2) Yes, an analysis has been done of the expressions of interest that were received. Further consideration and some deliberation has ended in in-principle decisions at cabinet level. I have deliberately not announced what those decisions are. In any case, they are not conclusive decisions because other issues need to be determined before the decision-making process can be thoroughly completed. If I had announced the decisions that have been made so far, it would simply have led to questions about matters of detail, which need to be resolved in any case. I formed the view that it was best not to comment on what those decisions were, partly because they would be somewhat consequential on the matters of detail that were being resolved. I know that that sounds like a load of gobbledygook, so I will have another go and try to explain it in a clearer way. Certain decisions have been made following the consideration of the expressions of interest. Matters of detail have to be resolved before those decisions can be brought to a conclusive end and can make any sense to anyone. I could provide the member with a briefing, which I could have done over the past three or four weeks, but it would not actually provide him with what he wants to know because the necessary decisions have not been concluded. I am happy to provide that briefing at any time in the near future on the understanding that it will not be terribly conclusive until these matters are finalised. I hope to have these matters finalised by the first week of December. The key decisions are made, but matters of certainty have not yet been concluded.

I am not aware that any land has been sold, although I am aware that a relatively small block of land, which has no particular meaning in terms of the current operation of the Midland saleyards, has been the subject of discussion. That is land on the other side of Military Road.