

CORMO EXPRESS

1246. Hon JIM SCOTT to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

- (1) How many sheep have died on the *Cormo Express*, which left Fremantle almost six weeks ago, and what plans are in place to end the suffering of the surviving sheep on board?
- (2) Given that there are only 50 captive bolts on board to euthanise the animals, is the minister aware whether the Government is considering sending a team of vets to the vessel; and, if not, why not?
- (3) Is the minister aware of what action the Australian Government will take to stop the suffering of the sheep if they are not unloaded urgently?
- (4) What will the State Government do to ensure that the sheep are not subjected to further suffering; and, has the minister contacted federal authorities to discuss how this can be prevented from occurring in the future?
 - (a) If so, what was the response?
 - (b) If not, will the minister undertake to raise this issue with the federal minister and report back to Parliament?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) I do not have any details on the number of sheep that have died. I will investigate this matter and advise the member in due course. As the honourable member would understand, that would be an answer only in relation to a particular point in time because this matter has not yet been concluded. The Australian Government and others with responsibility for this matter are assessing the best actions to take.
- (2) The Australian Government and others with responsibility for this matter are assessing those best actions.
- (3) No.
- (4) Through the Department of Agriculture, the State Government will continue to liaise with the Australian Government on the live export trade. My office has investigated the matter and I have advice that the Australian Government and others with responsibility for this matter are assessing the best actions to take. I expect this matter to be on the agenda for the October meeting of the Primary Industries Ministerial Council.