

SHEEP INDUSTRY

669. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Respectfully, the Premier is way off the track. Will he get on the phone to the federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and explain the dire situation for WA sheep producers and heed the opposition's calls to engage in crisis talks and do something as Premier to influence the federal minister?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

The member's proposition that this is somehow linked to a policy process in the federal government that may or may not result in a decision that may or may not take place until 2026 or 2027 is absolute complete and utter nonsense. This is about the fluctuations in the price of a particular farming product. We empathise and sympathise, and we understand that that is putting pressure on farmers, and we will work with the farming community and the industry, as we work with all industries, to make sure that we understand the dimensions and the impact of those fluctuations and, where appropriate, provide support. But to come in here and suggest that somehow the fluctuations of a market are somehow impacted by something that may or may not take place in three or four years' time is complete nonsense.