

INDONESIAN ABATTOIRS — LIVE CATTLE TRADE SUSPENSION

402. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I have a supplementary question. Having heard that, has the minister failed the Western Australian live export industry by being a man of words and no action, or is he blind Freddy?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Once again, I am sure a lot of members have an interest in this particular subject, but there are more appropriate ways of showing that interest in this place than by yelling and screaming. If members want to ask a question, they can ask a question. At the moment, I have given a supplementary question to the member for Collie–Preston and I believe that the minister is endeavouring to answer it.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The Liberal–National government stands on its record. The investments we have made in livestock saleyards in Western Australia also demonstrate our commitment to animal welfare. We have also seen, by engagement with the trade, significant improvements in the whole supply chain right the way through.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: We see that with the lairage, the ships and the quality of professionalism that those transporters now engage in, in live transport. There is no doubt that we want to see a shift, as Western Australians, in the practices that we saw on TV recently. What we probably differ on is the strategy to achieve that. It will be great to see the opposition stand up and be counted and call on the federal government to engage again with Indonesia to get the live trade up and going —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West, I formally call you to order for the first time today. Member for Wanneroo, I formally call you to order for the first time today. Minister, I hope you have finished this answer, because I do not want to stop question time at this point, but if members continue to behave in this way, I will.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: All I see from the opposition is a patchwork of positions. We are united in our commitment to improve animal welfare in the destination countries; we are doing that through our engagement with those countries and through the live trade. We need the Gillard government to come to the party.