

LIVE EXPORT — TRANSITION PACKAGE

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

I have a supplementary question. Given the revelation of Minister Jarvis's secret meetings with Canberra, will the Premier sack his minister and find someone else who will stand up for Western Australian farmers?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Just waiting.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Madam Speaker, that is the most pathetic supplementary question I have ever had. They are not secret meetings. The Minister for Agriculture and Food of Western Australian has a strong relationship with the federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, which is the reason that we are constantly talking to him about these issues. If the member does not think we should be talking to the federal government about these important issues for Western Australian farmers, he should just say so. Just say that we should stick our head in the sand. Just say that we should simply ignore what the federal government is doing and sit back and wait for the impact on Western Australian farmers. We want to be there. We want to be in front of the federal government, making sure we get the best possible deal. Of course we disagree with the phase-out of live sheep exports, but if it is going to happen—that is a decision for the federal government, not our government—we want to make sure that we are there to get the best possible deal for WA farmers. If the member thinks we should ignore that, he should go and face those farmers himself and say that we should just let rip and do nothing at all! That is his position.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: The member's position is to just sit back and do nothing! We will not. We will do what is right for Western Australia. We will always stand up for WA farmers, and that is what the agriculture minister is doing!