

SHEEP SALEYARDS — KATANNING

4968. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

I refer to the recent announcement that the State Government will partner the Shire of Katanning in the construction of new regional sheep saleyards and in relation to the location of the new Katanning saleyards in Nyabing Road, I ask:

- (a) what is the reasoning behind building a saleyard on the opposite side of town to the abattoir and not having the two facilities in one precinct;
- (b) who was involved in the process of choosing the site in Nyabing Road; and
- (c) what community consultation took place during the decision making process?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (a) A site owned by the Shire of Katanning located at lot 2809 Great Southern Highway and on the same side of town to the Western Australian Meat Marketing Company's abattoir was considered but was deemed to be unsuitable due to lack of "buffer" and the close proximity of semi-rural subdivisions to the north, and the Katanning town site to the east.
- (b) In 2009/10 the Department of Agriculture and Food examined several possible sites for a new sheep saleyard in the Shires of Katanning, Wagin and Woodanilling. In consultation with stakeholders the Nyabing Road site was identified as the preferred option based on distribution of sheep populations, transport distance to processors, suitability of site for development and other relevant considerations.
- (c) In December 2010 the Shire of Katanning released for public comment a document entitled "The Katanning Regional Saleyards Business Plan". The period for public comment closed on 11 February 2011. The Shire Council considered the matter on 24 February 2011 and agreed to endorse the Business Plan and for the Project to proceed.