

LIVE SHEEP EXPORT, AL KUWAIT, RSPCA TEST CASE

2078. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development

Further to my question without notice to the Minister for Police on April 2 2004 who asked that I refer this question to the Attorney General, and further to my question without notice to the Attorney General on June 2 2004 when I was asked to refer this question to the Minister for Local Government.

Regarding complaints made under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* to the police about the loading of sheep onto the livestock ship *Al Kuwait* -

- (1) As the police have advised the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) that it is the investigating body in this matter, will the RSPCA have access to the State Solicitor's Office to assist it in this investigation?
- (2) Will the Government support the RSPCA in this investigation by underwriting the cost of this test case?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

1. The RSPCA has its own legal advisers and does not use the State Solicitor's Office.
2. I am advised by the Department of Local Government and Regional Development that the complaint has now been given to the Department by Animals Australia. Future actions of the RSPCA in relation to this complaint are uncertain.