

LIVE EXPORT — FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY

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

I refer to the federal Labor government's recent backflip on a key tax reform election commitment that set a precedent. Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Given this backtrack on a significant election promise, what specific measures has the WA government taken to exert pressure on federal Labor to reconsider and reverse its election commitment on the live sheep export ban?

The SPEAKER: Just before I give the Premier the call, we had a number of interjections while that question was being asked. I would ask people not to interject. It is important that the minister and all of us are able to hear the question clearly, and the interjections are unwelcome. Premier in response, please.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I take it from both the public commentary from the member for Vasse, the Leader of the Liberal Party, and now the commentary from the Deputy Leader of the Nationals WA, that neither party supports the Albanese government's tax changes. Neither of these two branches of the Liberal Party and National Party actually supports a fair go —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: — for a tax system that will make sure —

The SPEAKER: Premier! I have just had, when you have only spoken for 15 seconds, two demands from the person who asked the question for you to answer the question. None of us will be able to hear the answer if he continues to interject like that. Can we just hear the Premier in response? The member's interjections provoke other people to then interject, and then if members really want to hear an answer to the question, it becomes almost impossible.

Mr R.H. COOK: Let the record show that they do not support the tax cuts featured in the Albanese government's statement from the other day that will soon go to Parliament. The member for Vasse's political party—I do not know what the member for Roe's political party thinks, because they keep stumbling around planter boxes in Canberra!—will vote for it, and the member for Roe should be supportive of these sorts of changes.

They are things that benefit Western Australians to deal with the cost of living. There is no better way to relieve the cost-of-living burden on middle and lower income earners. It is a very important measure to put in place.

On live sheep exports, obviously members have seen the devastating impact on both our biosecurity and animal welfare, which potentially could have resulted from the live sheep industry experiences of the last few weeks. I think that was an opportunity to reflect on it. Nevertheless, we have made it clear to the federal government that it should be taking into account the impact this will have on Western Australian farmers. It will have an impact of around \$126 million for the industry overall and the loss of around 400 jobs. Obviously, it will have not only a financial impact, but also will produce anxieties within farming families who are working out how to reconfigure their businesses in the face of these issues. I thought of all days, this would be the last day the member would bring into this place issues around long-distance live animal exports.