

MIDLAND SALEYARDS, NORTHAM AND MOORA SHIRE COUNCILS

1483. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

- (1) What communication has the minister had with the Northam and Moora Shire Councils on the relocation of the Midland saleyards?
- (2) Did the minister inform the shires they would have input into the process after a report from the Department of Agriculture on relocation was made public and before a cabinet decision was made?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

- (1) I have had lengthy communication with the Shires of Northam and Moora, both formally and informally, on a range of dates that I cannot recall. On the most recent occasion, I met concurrently with a whole-of-industry group, which included producer representatives, the Western Australian Livestock Salesmen's Association, the National Meat Authority and the Western Australian Meat Marketing Cooperative. On that occasion I met with the Shires of Northam and Moora separately from each other and from the industry group. I also met with the Shire of Chittering, the Town of Midland and the Midland Chamber of Commerce. On that one day, I met with all the relevant players.
- (2) In asking whether I said the groups could have input, the member mentioned the release of the independent report prepared by the Department of Agriculture. That report was released last Friday. Those shires are free to have input to me if they want, prior to the cabinet decision and following their consideration of the independent report. I would be happy to hear their advice before taking a decision to Cabinet.