

## PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT – Feb 27 2008

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart) (11:01):** I move:

*That the regulations made under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985 entitled Electrical Devices, made on 23 August 2007 and laid on the table of this house on 11 September 2007, be disallowed.*

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:23):** I rise to support the member for Stuart's motion. People need to realise that there are many thousands of people who handle stock in a professional way, whether they are involved in the rodeo industry or the stock-handling industry. There are hundreds of thousands of people across the world who have to load or shift stock, and sometimes the stock is stubborn. Anyone here who has loaded six year old broken-mouthed ewes would know what it is like to put 600 of them on a B-double on a hot day; as the honourable member suggests, sometimes they need a little coercion. Of course you are not going to hurt your stock; you are probably sending them off to market to be sold, so there is no way you would wish to damage the animals that you have looked after for up to six years. There is no sense in coming out with ridiculous regulations that ban the use of some devices.

I attended the Calgary Stampede 25 years ago and it is a fantastic event. They were using D9 bulldozers to pull the stage out into the arena. Millions of people have attended this event over the years, as the honourable member indicated. I suggest that people need to get out of their offices and go out into the big, wide world and have a look at what is going on.

The mulesing of sheep has been brought up. From my many years of farming and treading the boards shearing, I can tell you what full-blown flystrike in a sheep is like—and it is not very nice. You only get the same amount of money to shear the wool off when you are just chaffing through maggots for four minutes to get the fleece off. It is not very nice at all, but it is far worse for the sheep that is getting eaten alive. I ask the people from PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) if they have ever had a good look at what happens to stock which are not treated in a husband-like way, because they get eaten alive and go off to a paddock to die a very slow and painful death.

Another issue that the member for Schubert touched on was the chicken industry. My information is that caged birds have a much lower mortality rate than barn hens have. People need to have a look at the facts and see what is going on as far as the handling of stock and running of live animals is concerned. I commend the motion.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mrs Geraghty.