

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Western Victoria region - Koroit dairy sale

Question asked by: Mr James Purcell (Member for Western Victoria)
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 22 June 2018

QUESTION:

Mr PURCELL (Western Victoria) (12:43) — My question is for the Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has ordered Saputo to dispose of the Murray Goulburn plant in Koroit. This was a couple of months ago, and many dairy farmers, and importantly the Koroit employees, are waiting with uncertain futures. Many are really concerned about their job security. My question is: Minister, can you shed any light onto the timetable that the ACCC has set for Saputo to resolve this sale and any uncertainty that the employees at the Koroit factory are facing?

REPLY

On 1 May 2018, Saputo Dairy Australia completed the purchase of all the operating assets and liabilities of Murray Goulburn Cooperative. Saputo subsequently began the process to sell the Koroit processing plant. The ACCC has advised my department that it is not disclosing information on the sale due to the sensitivities of the nature of the divesture undertaking and its ramifications. My department will continue to monitor the situation.



Hon Jaala Pulford MP
Minister for Agriculture