

TIMBER INDUSTRY — URS REPORT

840. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) Will the government address the issue of the landed log price to give mills more surety of price?
- (2) Does the minister support a viable timber industry; and, if not, what alternatives for the communities would be available?
- (3) Does the minister have a response to the industry sponsored URS report?
- (4) Does the minister support any of the recommendations from the native hardwood supply chain study; and, if yes, which ones?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I answer on behalf of Hon Robyn McSweeney. I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. This was actually directed to the Minister for Forestry, which is fine.

- (1) The Forest Products Commission advises that landed log pricing is already an option for log buyers.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The minister did not respond directly to the URS report, but on 5 February 2009 he did announce that government had rejected a request from some parts of the native timber industry for a multimillion dollar taxpayer funded bailout of private company debt and a request for better quality logs for less money.
- (4) The minister supports the efforts by the Forest Products Commission and the native timber industry to improve the efficiency of the log supply chain, while recognising the constraints imposed by long-term contracts established while the previous government was in office.