

FOREST MANAGEMENT — DIEBACK PREVENTION

**474. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:**

- (1) Is the minister aware of concerns that the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Forest Products Commission have effectively delegated responsibility for prevention of the spread of dieback in forest-logging areas to logging contractors?
- (2) Are these concerns justified?
- (3) If yes to (2), what accountability measures are in place?
- (4) If no to (2), can the minister inform the house what procedures are in place to ensure that dieback will not be spread from affected areas to unaffected areas within the Jolly forest logging area, in particular —
  - (a) what facilities will be made available for operators to clean their vehicles, machinery and boats, and who provides the equipment used in the logging;
  - (b) whether FPC or DEC will make random inspections to ensure that all equipment is properly maintained;
  - (c) what training has been provided to contractors about clean-down procedures and how FPC or DEC will ensure compliance with clean-down procedures;
  - (d) whether contractors are under any legal obligation to prevent employees bypassing clean-down procedures; and
  - (e) what penalties will be imposed for breaches of these procedures?

**The PRESIDENT:** That is a very long question.

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. This information has been provided to me by the Minister for Environment.

- (1)–(3) The minister is aware of the importance of minimising the impact of dieback on forests. The Department of Environment and Conservation manages and monitors timber harvesting operations in state forest. Timber harvesting is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the “Forest management plan 2004–2013”. DEC administers an approvals process for all proposed timber harvesting operations, including the development of dieback hygiene management plans.
- (4) A hygiene management plan has been developed for harvesting operations in the Jolly 0111 coupe.
  - (a) This question should be directed to the Minister for Forestry.
  - (b) Yes; DEC will undertake random inspections.
  - (c) This question should be directed to the Minister for Forestry.
  - (d) Yes.
  - (e) Authorised DEC officers have powers under part 16 of the Forest Management Regulations 1993, “Control and eradication of forest diseases”, which specifies penalties for breaches of *phytophthora* hygiene.