

TOURISM, SOUTH WEST, IMPACT OF REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

3265. Mr B.K. Masters to the Minister for Tourism

- (1) What evidence is available to support the Premier's claim, made in his media statement of 5 October 2004, that 'Since becoming protected from old growth logging, our South-West forests have become a major tourist attraction'?
- (2) Is it not true that, as a result of opposition to the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) from anti-logging activities, tourism to the South-West forests dropped significantly in the lead-up to the 2001 State election?
- (3) What factual data such as tourist visitations, overnight stays at accommodation providers in the South-West forest region and expenditures exist to show that current tourism levels are significantly higher than tourism levels prior to the start of the RFA dispute?
- (4) What influence has international terrorism such as September 11 in New York had on domestic tourism and has there been a downturn in international tourism by Australians such that more are staying at home and visiting domestic tourism areas such as the South-West forests?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

I refer the Member to the answer provided by the Premier to Question on Notice 3264.