

TIMELESS TIMBER TREASURES, CONTRACT

662. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

I refer to Timeless Timber Treasures of Nannup.

- (1) Is the minister aware that -
 - (a) Timeless Timber Treasures has had a contract to purchase timber for its business for more than 10 years;
 - (b) Recently, as an interim measure, it has had access to only a six-monthly contract until a tendering process was put in place; and
 - (c) it was not notified of the recent meeting held in Harvey to outline the tender process and as a result lost the opportunity to tender for timber for the next 10 to 15 years?
- (2) What does the minister intend to do to address this apparent breach of process, which will destroy the viability of this important small business?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Barry House for some notice of the question.

- (1)
 - (a) Timeless Timber Treasures has purchased logs from the Forest Products Commission since 1 November 1994.
 - (b) Forest Products Commission contracts for native forest log timber had an expiry date of 31 December 2003. A number of contracts for a range of forest products such as feature-grade sawlogs and firewood were extended into 2004 to allow for the tendering of feature-grade sawlogs and firewood.
 - (c) The tender for feature-grade sawlogs was advertised in *The West Australian* newspaper on 28 July 2004 and 4 August 2004, and also on the Government's electronic bulletin board in accordance with State Supply Commission guidelines.
- (2) There has been no breach of the tender process in accordance with the State Supply Commission guidelines and the forest management regulations, and it is in line with due process as overseen by the probity auditor. It is not appropriate for the Forest Products Commission to depart from the tender process and thereby be in breach of the tender conditions. Regular auctions will continue to be run that will provide opportunities to access log timber.