

SANDALWOOD HARVEST — SALE BY PUBLIC TENDER

3171. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Minister representing the Minister for Forestry

In relation to Sandalwood, I ask —

- (1) Is the sale of native Sandalwood, harvested and processed by the Forest Products Commission to any Australian company, put out for public tender if the value is greater than \$50 000, as prescribed in the *State Supply Commission Act 1991*?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Are there any current negotiations taking place with ANY Australian companies and the Forest Products Commission to sell Sandalwood with a sale value greater than \$50 000 without going to Public Tender?
- (4) Have there been any Private Treaty Sales of native Sandalwood during the past three years to any Australian company with a value in excess of \$50 000 without that sale/contract going to Public Tender?
- (5) If yes to (4) —
  - (a) why was the proper Public process not followed;
  - (b) who were the local companies that benefited from this action; and
  - (c) what was the value of the sales?
- (6) Are Australian companies, especially those adding value and creating additional employment opportunities within the State, allowed to purchase native Sandalwood from the Forest Products Commission and its marketing agent Wescorp Sandalwood, at the current export price offered to overseas companies?
- (7) If no to (6), why not?
- (8) If no to (6), what action will the Minister take to enable local Australian companies access to the Sandalwood resource so that they can add value and create employment, not subsidised sales but at true market price?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The Forest Products Commission (FPC) may make any appropriate commercial contractual arrangements as defined under Section 56 of the Forest Products Act 2000.
- (3) No.
- (4) Yes.
- (5)
  - (a) Please refer to part (2).
  - (b) Mount Romance Australia and The Paperbark Company.
  - (c) FPC income received since November 2007 under private treaty sale arrangements:
    - Mount Romance Australia- \$1,573,440.30; and
    - The Paperbark Company — \$591,947.14
- (6) Yes, but none is available.
- (7)-(8) Not applicable.