

TIMELESS TIMBER TREASURES, OMISSION BY FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION

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

Further to the question I just asked on Timeless Timber Treasures, I understand that all people involved in the business, except the business proprietor, were directly contacted by the Forest Products Commission on the tendering process rather than just finding out about it through advertisements in the newspaper. In view of that, will the minister approach the Forest Products Commission to see whether that omission - it seems to have been an omission - can be corrected?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Barry House for following up this question. We would not want to be seen to be making a harsh judgment on this position that would unduly affect anybody. I understand that a number of people who the Forest Products Commission knew would be tendering were directly contacted. To that extent, the member's statement is correct. I also understand that about half the people who attended the compulsory briefing that the member referred to had not been invited. It seems that for a large number of people the publication of the advertisements was effective. I am always concerned about issues that have deadlines as a person might miss it through illness, absence or simply being busy. Frankly, when one is relying on a public notice in a newspaper, it is not hard to miss things. I, for one, never read them. Most people who are busy would not. I will undertake to at least look at the situation to see what can be done. I have taken the trouble since notice was given of the question to determine the volume that this business has taken historically. It is clearly a substantial business when viewed in the context of that form of enterprise. I am aware that as a regional business it would have particular significance. I will take up the matter. I thank Hon Barry House for raising this issue. I will discuss it with the Forest Products Commission this week.