

AGRICULTURAL PLANT DESIGNER, MANUFACTURER, SUPPLIER AND IMPORTER PROGRAM

374. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the minister representing the Minister for Employment Protection:

I refer to the post-implementation report of the agricultural plant designer, manufacturer, supplier and importer program coordinated by the heads of workplace safety authorities' farm safety working group.

- (1) Can the minister advise why the Western Australian Tractor and Machinery Association and the Farm Machinery Dealers' Association were not consulted prior to this report?
- (2) Will the minister assure the house that further audits will not be undertaken by WorkSafe staff without appropriate consultation with these two key industry stakeholders?
- (3) In reference to the report's findings, will the minister advise -
 - (a) why 16 per cent of new tractors and 14 per cent of used tractors supplied in Western Australia did not have rollover protective structures;
 - (b) the location of the retail outlets where these new and used tractors were sold;
 - (c) the approximate age of the used tractors supplied without ROPS; and
 - (d) whether it is possible to fit ROPS to these used tractors?

Hon JON FORD replied:

On behalf of the minister representing the Minister for Employment Protection, I thank Hon Nigel Hallett for some notice of this question. The Minister for Employment Protection has supplied the following answer -

- (1)-(2) The agricultural plant designer, manufacturer, supplier and importer program was proposed in December 2004 and approved by the heads of workplace safety authorities in July 2005. The program began in July 2005 and was completed in February 2006 and involved collaboration between all six participating states to develop uniform information materials and inspection checklists.

The Western Australian Tractor and Machinery Association and the Farm Machinery Dealers' Association were consulted extensively. For example, WorkSafe officers met with representatives from the associations on 25 and 26 May 2005. I am also tabling a copy of a June 2005 publication from the Tractor and Machinery Association of Australia about the campaign. In addition, the Farm Machinery Dealers' Association's secretary at the time sent an email about the program to WorkSafe dated 28 June 2005. The email confirmed that the proposed checklist that was being used for the program had been circulated.

The post-implementation report referred to by the honourable member was approved by the heads of workplace safety authorities, and details the planning, conduct and findings of the program. The report has been distributed to stakeholders and is available on the WorkSafe website.

- (3)
 - (a) This information was not collected as part of the program.
 - (b) WorkSafe has taken the appropriate action when noncompliant plant was identified, and it is not appropriate to provide the details of those individual businesses.
 - (c)-(d) See answer to (a).

There is a reference to tabling a document in that answer but the document is not here. Perhaps the minister will table it at some other time. I will chase that up.