

TREE-THINNING TRIAL — WILGA

1371. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to the tree-thinning trial at Wilga, near Donnybrook. Wilga is a small town that is surrounded by forests and at an extremely high risk of bushfires.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that this operation has strong operational support from the forestry industry section, government departments and the local community?
- (2) Is the minister aware that a by-product of the operation is a quantity of woodchips that are exported to Japan for use in energy generation?
- (3) Is the minister aware that the trial has been suspended?
- (4) If yes to (3), can the minister advise why the trial has been suspended?
- (5) Can the minister advise when the trial will continue?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The contractor will remove the by-product without restrictions on the use of the by-product. There is no obligation to report where the by-products are processed or the final use of the by-products.
- (3) The trial has not been suspended. Planning and consideration of issues are in progress.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The trial will proceed once all aspects of the proposal are determined to be compliant with legislation and government policies and guidelines.