

RAILWAY SLEEPERS, JARRAH AND WANDOO

476. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

- (1) What happens to old jarrah and wandoo railway sleepers after they are replaced?
- (2) If they are burned, why?
- (3) How many railway sleepers were destroyed during the last two years?
- (4) How many railway sleepers are destroyed each year on average?
- (5) How many railway sleepers are currently stockpiled awaiting disposal?
- (6) Has the Government ever investigated how they may be re-used or recycled for use in conservation/rehabilitation work?
- (7) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD replied:

- 1) Old sleepers that are intact are sold to the public for garden use. Small quantities only are disposed of in this way.
Old sleepers that are not intact are disposed of at an Environmental Protection Authority approved disposal site.
- 2) Old sleepers are not burned.
- 3) About 1600
- 4) About 800
- 5) About 600.
- 6) & 7). Apart from isolated sales to the public as in (1) above, in the Perth metropolitan area the numbers of surplus sleepers are too small and widespread to support conservation programs. Mulching of scrap sleepers was investigated but metal fastenings and stones embedded in the timber posed too great a risk to the machinery.