

CCA TREATED WOOD, BAN ON USE

1725. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health

- (1) Does the Government have any plans to ban the use of CCA treated wood for -
 - (a) residential uses; or
 - (b) playground uses?
- (2) Has the Government carried out a review of the uses of CCA treated wood and potential public health and environmental impacts?
- (3) If yes, will the Minister table the studies?
- (4) Is the Minister aware the Australian Pesticide and Veterinarian Medicines Authority called for a ban on CCA treated wood in December 2003?
- (5) Is the Minister aware the European Union announced a ban on arsenic in wood preservatives such as CCA?
- (6) Is the Minister aware that the USA and Canada have a phase-out program for CCA treated wood products?
- (7) Has the Minister corresponded with the Education Minister regarding the use of CCA treated wood in schools and school playgrounds?
- (8) If yes, will the Minister table that correspondence?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

- (1)
 - (a) No.
 - (b) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No. The Report released by the APVMA in December 2003 was only released in Draft format for public comments before the report is finalised. At this stage the APVMA has only made recommendations to restrict the use of CCA treated timber. The APVMA has recommended that CCA treated timber not be used in structures such as picnic tables, deckings, hand rails and children's play equipment. This recommendation was based upon a precautionary approach and not based on evidence of health risk. There are no epidemiological studies linking adverse health effects and direct contact with CCA treated timber. The APVMA has recommended that no action be taken against existing CCA timber structures.
- (5) No. The European Union has not banned arsenic in wood preservatives but has announced a partial prohibition on the use of CCA treated timber. The European Commission has recommended that CCA treated timber not be used in residential or domestic constructions. The European Union has not made recommendations on CCA treated timber already in use.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) No.
- (8) Not applicable.