

RAILWAY SLEEPERS, NATIVE TIMBER

162. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the minister guarantee that Westrail will no longer purchase railway sleepers cut from native timber?
- (2) If the minister will not give this guarantee, is this the reason that he is refusing to comply with the Freedom of Information Commissioner's ruling that he release the Acting Commissioner of Railway's review of Westrail use of timber sleepers?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1)-(2) The member has made the assumption that the document that has been called for release is the one that he identifies. The reason that I have refused to release that document is that there is a principle involved with regard to documents that are before Cabinet..

Hon N.F. Moore: Members opposite would not know, because they did not pass the legislation when they were in government.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE: With regard to the wooden sleepers, we are abiding by Cabinet's decision of, I think, 28 July.