

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — STATEMENTS OF CORPORATE INTENT

445. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Forestry:

Following on from that answer, I will ask another question about the minister's fiscal responsibility.

I refer to the Forest Products Commission's statements of corporate intent.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the FPC is directed by legislation to produce a statement of corporate intent for each financial year?
- (2) Why has the minister failed to abide by the legislation and table those statements of corporate intent for the past two years?
- (3) Can the minister advise the house whether the Auditor General has notified the Forest Products Commission of the necessity to produce those reports?
- (4) When will the minister table those reports?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

(1)–(4) I think it is the first question I have had on forestry for some time, if at all.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The member was right; there is a legislative responsibility to table a statement of corporate intent. The Auditor General has written to the Forest Products Commission about that. It is my understanding—I cannot be sure about this but I can confirm it later—that we have written back to the Auditor General and have given the reasons for the delay. One reason we have held off from putting out a statement of corporate intent—I am actually pretty close to signing off on one now—is that we have had to go through the challenges that I just spent the past 15 minutes describing to the house of settling the organisation so that it can be financially sustainable.

Mr E.S. Ripper: It is the law. Abide by the law.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The Auditor General is certainly up to date on what we are trying to achieve. There is no point in me misleading this house by putting out a statement of corporate intent that would set directions for an organisation that will substantially change from that position. I am very aware of my legislative responsibilities. We have been in close contact with the Office of the Auditor General about that. This comes on the back of the challenges that the opposition set the Forest Products Commission. This government is making hard decisions to sort it out.