

WESTRAIL, TIMBER RAILWAY SLEEPERS POLICY

410. Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the minister's appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision of the Information Commissioner that the review of Westrail's use of timber railway sleepers should be released. What have been the minister's legal costs to date, and what are the anticipated future legal costs?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The appeal to the Supreme Court is conducted under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act by the Crown Solicitor's Office on behalf of the Minister for Transport. The Crown Solicitor's Office has so far incurred legal costs of \$14 229. It is not possible to anticipate the future legal costs until the outcome of the appeal is known.