

NANNUP FIRE — MORRIS FAMILY

942. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to my grievance on 16 May 2013 about the Morris Family in Nannup and the Ellis Pine Plantation fire on 12 March 2012 which caused significant financial losses for the Morris family among others in the region, and ask:

- (a) what progress has been made with negotiations between the Forest Products Commission, the State Solicitor and Riskcover to seek compensation for the Morris family;
- (b) will the Forest Products Commission invoke Clause 33 (Arbitration) of the Forest Product Commission's Works and Services Contract with Waugh's Forest Services, and if not, why not;
- (c) what is the estimated financial cost the Forest Products Commission has incurred as a result of the fire and associated clean up at the Ellis Pine Plantation after the 12 March 2012 fire, including asset losses, Department of Environment and Conservation charges, local government costs from the Shires of Nannup, Donnybrook-Balingup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes and contractors used to assist in fire management services; and
- (d) what is the estimated financial settlement to the five families in the Nannup-Balingup region that Riskcover has suggested to the Forest Products Commission as a result of its insurance assessment?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

- (a) RiskCover, on behalf of the Forest Products Commission (FPC), has agreed to conduct a loss assessment of the damage suffered by the Morris family. Further information will be provided to them by RiskCover on a confidential basis.
- (b) Arbitration under this clause is not appropriate in this instance. The matter relates to an alleged tortious incident, rather than a dispute arising under the Contract, as provided for in the above clause.
- (c) Currently, FPC estimates it has incurred an estimated \$850,000 in financial costs arising from the Ellis plantation fire. This amount has not been formally assessed and quantified by an independent body or insurer.
- (d) There is no admission of liability in respect of this matter.