

PINETEC, SAWLOG RESOURCES

546. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Forest Products:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that since 1995 the company Pinetec has been making representations for additional pine sawlogs from publicly owned plantations, including the Gngangara Pine Plantation?
- (2) Does the Government intend to give Pinetec the opportunity to acquire any additional saw log resources?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If so, what procedures or mechanisms does the Government intend to follow to make such additional resources available?
- (5) Is it true that the Government is withholding substantial pine sawlog resources in the Gngangara Pine Plantation and elsewhere in anticipation of an Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL) plant being established?
- (6) Have any discussions taken place between the Government and Japanese interests about establishing an LVL plant?
- (7) Has the Government given any -
  - (a) commitments;
  - (b) undertakings; or
  - (c) indications,to Japanese or any other interests that pine sawlogs from public pine plantations will be made available to such an LVL plant?
- (8) If so, what -
  - (a) commitments;
  - (b) undertakings; and/or
  - (c) indications,have been given in this respect?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) CALM has advertised tenders and expressions of interest in the past, which have given opportunity for interests such as Pinetec to access those resources. These practices will continue. CALM has also offered Pinetec the opportunity to invest in its own plantations with CALM rather than solely rely on Government plantations to supply its long-term resource needs. While Pinetec have not yet taken up this prospect it is still open to it.
- (5) The member is referred to the FORPAC Report (FORPAC Review of CALM Business Unit Activities, 2000). There are at present pine sawlog resources of a higher specification than contained in Pinetec's Contract and which are the subject of separate commercial negotiations.
- (6) See (5). The current negotiations involve a consortium headed by an Australian Company with Japanese partners.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) Negotiations with the consortium are proceeding.