

TIMBER RAILWAY SLEEPERS, EXPORT

175. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Forest Products:

- (1) Have any railway sleepers from jarrah, karri, blackbutt, tingle or wandoo logs been produced for export in the last six months?
- (2) If yes, at which sawmills were they produced, and in what amounts?
- (3) Are any railway sleepers produced from jarrah, karri, blackbutt, tingle or wandoo logs currently being produced for export?
- (4) If yes, at which sawmills are they being produced, and in what amounts?
- (5) Is K D Powers sawmill currently producing railway sleepers from native hardwood logs for either domestic or export use?
- (6) If yes, in what amounts?
- (7) Does K D Powers sawmill have any value-adding facilities?
- (8) If yes, will the Minister specify what value-adding facilities are located on its facilities?
- (9) Is Bunnings Deanmill sawmill currently producing railway sleepers from native hardwood logs, for either domestic use or export?
- (10) If yes, what amounts are being produced?

Mr OMODEI replied:

(1)-(6),(9)-(10)

The member is referred to the answer to Question 2386 in which it was explained that CALM's access to sleeper statistics is from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics' (ABARE) Publication 'Australian Forest Products Statistics'. The March quarter edition of this publication is unavailable until mid July. The data presented in this publication is not broken down into species type or sawmill. Under the conditions of Contracts of Sale, CALM receives information on the production of value added timber but sleepers do not fall into this category.

(7) No.

(8) The sawmiller value-adds by kiln drying timber at another facility. Timber grading to a higher structural grade is also conducted on site to achieve higher grades of timber in accordance with contract of sale conditions.