

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — HARVEST — FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

837. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the minister representing the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the February 2019 Lewana bushfire, incident 423437, which was considered to be caused by a Forest Products Commission contractor's plantation harvesting equipment.

- (1) What is considered when undertaking a fire risk assessment prior to commencing a harvest operation, and were all conditions met on this occasion?
- (2) What was taken into consideration when determining whether a manned or unmanned fire truck was required on the day?
- (3) Given the harvest is a commercial venture of the Forest Products Commission, how does the government justify the application of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 provision, "Protection from personal liability"?
- (4) What public liability insurance does an FPC contractor need to have, and was this in place prior to the commencement of the harvest?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The following information has been provided by the Minister for Forestry.

- (1) Daily operational restrictions are determined in consideration of the forecast fire danger index, the level of hazard associated with the specific site conditions and the risk posed by the operation type. These conditions were met on this occasion.
- (2) The factors described in part (1) were taken into consideration when determining whether a manned or unmanned fire truck was required on the day.
- (3) The Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 protection from personal liability provisions do not apply to the Forest Products Commission and the commission does not seek to rely upon them.
- (4) FPC harvest contractors are required to have public liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$20 million for any occurrence and unlimited in the aggregate. Yes, all contractors are required to have insurance in place before contracts are awarded.