

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

*Thirty-fourth Report — “Inquiry into the Sandalwood Industry in Western Australia —
Request for Access to Documents from the 38th Parliament” — Tabling*

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan) [2.06 pm]: I am directed to present the thirty-fourth report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs titled “Inquiry into the Sandalwood Industry in Western Australia — Request for Access to Documents from the 38th Parliament”.

[See paper 518.]

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: The committee has resolved to continue its inquiry into the sandalwood industry in Western Australia, building upon the work commenced by the previous members of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs during the thirty-eighth Parliament. In the second half of 2012, the previous committee heard evidence from and received submissions in connection with the sandalwood industry. Although much of the evidence that the committee considered has been categorised as public evidence, the committee is aware of evidence and documentation in connection with the inquiry that has not been released. The consideration of this private evidence and documentation would greatly assist the committee in its analysis of the issues arising from the inquiry.

Standing order 224(2) provides that the Legislative Council may order the release of unpublished records of committees, which would include evidence and documents as defined in standing order 174. In order to conduct its proceedings expeditiously and produce a meaningful report on this inquiry, the committee therefore requests that the Legislative Council release to this committee all unpublished records from the thirty-eighth Parliament associated with the inquiry into the sandalwood industry in Western Australia. I commend the committee's report to the house.

Motion

Pursuant to standing order 190, on motion without notice by **Hon Simon O'Brien**, resolved —

That the evidence received by the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs during the thirty-eighth Parliament in relation to its inquiry into the sandalwood industry in Western Australia be released to the standing committee for the purposes of its continuing inquiry into the same matter.