

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — AERIAL SPRAYING OPERATIONS

649. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the reference on page 690 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, to activities of the Forest Products Commission.

- (1) What management plan does the FPC have in place to ensure its spraying programs do not allow pesticides and other chemicals such as Roundup to leach into waterways or neighbouring properties, and what testing does the FPC carry out to measure contamination of soil, water and vegetation on land adjacent to sprayed areas?
- (2) What compensation will the state government offer to Donnybrook farmers Jeff Pow and Michelle McManus, who have been forced to undertake an expensive chemical testing program to determine whether their food products can still be certified organic after spraying was carried out by the FPC directly adjacent to their property?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

- (1) The Forest Products Commission conducts its aerial spraying operations in accordance with relevant codes, standards and legislation. The commission's operations are independently certified to ISO 14001, which is the international standard for environmental management systems. An aerial spraying management plan is drafted for each aerial spraying operation undertaken by the FPC. Monitoring of herbicide application is undertaken as part of regular inspections during the application period.
- (2) Water analysis, both pre and post-spraying, has been undertaken by ALS Environmental and results provided to Mr Pow and Ms McManus. Results from five test sites show there is no detectable amount of either glyphosate or metsulfuron-methyl in the water post spraying.