

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR WATER; FORESTRY — TRAVEL EXPENSES

1280. Hon SUE ELLERY to the minister representing the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the report on interstate and overseas travel tabled on 11 November 2014 and the \$3 714 spent by the Minister for Forestry's parliamentary secretary for travel to Canberra for World Forest Day.

- (1) What specific events, functions and/or meetings did the parliamentary secretary attend in Canberra over the period 4–5 March 2014 as part of World Forest Day?
- (2) Has the Minister for Forestry met with the parliamentary secretary to discuss the outcomes of his travel to Canberra for World Forest Day?
- (3) If yes to (2), what were those outcomes?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Forestry I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The parliamentary secretary for Water; Forestry represented the Minister for Forestry at the 2014 industry gala dinner hosted by the Australian Forest Products Association and ForestWorks ISC, held on Tuesday, 4 March.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Outcomes of the industry meeting included discussions relating to the future viability of the timber industry and sharing ideas on best practice and innovation; address by the Prime Minister, Hon Tony Abbott, and introduction by Senator Richard Colbeck, federal parliamentary secretary for Agriculture; the announcement of the formation of the new Forestry Advisory Council; the Australian Forest Products Association's proposal for a national institute for forest products innovation; and the 2014 industry development conference.