

AVON TO ALBANY RAIL LINE — RE-SLEEPERING

4251. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport

Regarding the use of wooden railway sleepers for the re-sleepering of part of the Avon to Albany rail line, I ask —

- (1) How many railway sleepers were commissioned for that rail line?
- (2) Is the use of wooden sleepers a part of the tender document?
- (3) Who decided to use wooden sleepers for that rail line?
- (4) How many sleepers were milled in Western Australia and at what mills?
- (5) How many have been delivered already?
- (6) How many have been installed already and where?
- (7) Do these sleepers comply with the relevant Australian Standards (including AS 3818.2)?
- (8) If yes to (7), how do you know that they comply?
- (9) How is the Minister ensuring that the sleepers installed on the rail line do not negatively affect the security of people and freight?
- (10) How much has the State Government paid towards the cost of installing these sleepers and how much more is it committed to pay?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

The Public Transport Authority advises:

- (1) 184 353
- (2) Timber sleepers may be used.
- (3) WestNet Rail.
- (4) All timber sleepers were milled in Western Australia. Redmond Sawmill; Chowerup Sawmill; Whiteland Milling; and Australian Craftwood & Timber.
- (5) To 30 June 2011, 72 870 sleepers.
- (6) To 30 June 2011, 67 418 on the Avon to Albany rail line.
- (7) Yes
- (8) They are certified.
- (9) The Public Transport Authority conducts site inspections of completed works including inspecting the quality of the sleepers to ensure all works and sleepers meet all required standards.
- (10) The project is jointly funded by both the State and Federal Governments.
\$24 183 706 (ex GST) was spent on the Avon to Albany resleepering project in 2010/11 with \$11 057 294 remaining.