

PASTORAL LEASES - PERMITS

**178. Hon KEN BASTON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

I refer to the part 7, division 5 of the Land Administration Act 1997, which allows lessees of pastoral land to obtain non-transferable permits for diversification projects such as silviculture, including sandalwood plantations.

- (1) Given that some plantations will not have matured when the current leases expire in 2015, and as 60 per cent of the current lessees have been offered a lease renewal for 40 to 50 years -
  - (a) are the permit expiry dates synchronised to the expiry dates of the lease renewals when the lessee remains unchanged; and
  - (b) if no to (a), why not, and will the minister rectify this?
- (2) Does the minister agree that lack of synchronisation could deter lessees from establishing silviculture projects that would add significantly to the gross value of rangeland production, particularly sandalwood which is a highly prized export?

**Hon ADELE FARINA replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. There are no current diversification permits for silviculture, including the growing of sandalwood.

- (1)
  - (a) No.
  - (b) All pastoral leases, and consequently diversification permits on those leases, expire on 30 June 2015. It is not possible to issue a diversification permit to a pastoral lessee beyond the expiry of the lease. Offers of renewal of pastoral leases post-2015 are conditional and should those conditions not be satisfied, the offer of lease renewal may not be realised. Thus, there is no guarantee of continuity of the lease, and the permits cannot be issued beyond the term of the current lease.
- (2) Persons, including pastoral lessees, should not be deterred from embarking on a silviculture operation as they may apply for a lease under section 79 of the Land Administration Act 1997, which could be granted beyond 2015.