

GOUNDREY WINES LTD

427. Hon J.A. COWDELL to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to question without notice 387 on Tuesday, the answer to which refers to the Executive Director of the Department of Conservation and Land Management exercising executive discretion in the Goundrey Wines Ltd prosecution.

- (1) Did any person related to Goundrey approach the executive director and request that the charges be dropped?
- (2) If yes, who approached the director and what was his response?
- (3) Was Dr Cox subsequently approached by the Minister for Primary Industry in relation to the dropping of charges?
- (4) Did the Minister for the Environment contact Dr Cox about the dropping of charges?
- (5) Did the executive director receive approaches from any other person about the exercise of his discretion in this matter and, if yes, who?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I am pleased to say there are no outstanding questions from Hon John Cowdell that I must answer.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The executive director received additional information from Mr Avery about the alleged taking of protected flora. In view of this information and a subsequent review of the circumstances, the executive director used his judgment to discontinue the matter, as provided in the Department of Conservation and Land Management's prosecution policy.
- (3) This question should be directed to the Minister for Primary Industry.
- (4) No.
- (5) Mr Bendat.