



The Hon Terry Redman MLA
Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Corrective Services

Min Ref: 39-17682

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment
and Public Affairs
C/- Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Brian

Dear ~~Mr~~ Ellis

Your letter of 28 February 2012 requested that I respond to eighteen issues that the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs has raised with respect to native sandalwood harvesting and the considerable business activity and employment that depends on that resource.

Many of these issues are complex and will require advice being sought from the Forest Products Commission (FPC) and in some cases from the Department of Environment and Conservation (through the Minister for Environment) and possibly the Mines portfolio. I will seek advice, but I think that it will be difficult to meet the deadline that you have set while doing the questions you have asked justice.

Before I can complete the process of compiling the answers you seek, I will need the Committee to provide more information on some of the issues raised.

1. Are there specific allegations about a particular FPC tender process being corrupt?
2. You refer to complaints by Mr Mader about improper conduct by FPC contractors, but Mr Mader's submission to the Committee has not been attached to your letter. I can only seek and provide responses if details of specific allegations can be provided to me.
3. I assume the roadworks, rehabilitation and station ownership issues are also contained in Mr Mader's submission, but again I can only seek and provide responses if details of specific allegations can be provided to me.

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4. You ask why the matter between the FPC and Austoils Pty Ltd is unresolved. I need to clarify what the specific matter is that you refer to because the company has raised a number of issues with the Committee. Do I assume that the unresolved matter is that the FPC has declined to offer sandalwood suitable for oil distillation to Austoils and the company believes this is unreasonable?

Yours sincerely



TERRY REDMAN MLA
MINISTER FOR FORESTRY

1:5 JUN 2012

PUBLIC
BUT NOT ON THE NET
mgw