

DALGARUP COUPE — HARVESTING

**326. Mr D.T. REDMAN to the Minister for Forestry:**

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister accept that his earlier decision to take two-tier karri out of the 2020 harvest plan and the current decision to stop harvesting in the Dalgarp coupe on the basis of a protest from a small group signals uncertainty to an industry that is responsible for more than 3 000 jobs in Western Australia?

**Mr D.J. KELLY replied:**

The member has asked me questions about the decision not to harvest for 2020 areas of two-tier forest. I think the answer I gave the member then is pretty much the same as the one I will give him now. There has been more recent investment in the forestry industry than ever happened while the member for Warren–Blackwood was the minister. We have had a major company, Parkside Timber, that has come from Queensland to set up shop here in WA. It has bought two mills that frankly were on the verge of closure. It has come here and started to invest. When I met Mr Robert Tapiolas from Parkside Timber when we made that announcement, he was very supportive of the way that we are managing the forestry industry here in WA. My suggestion to the member for Warren–Blackwood, if he is genuine about supporting those jobs, is to get a bit of balance in his arguments and his commentary. Really good things are happening in forestry in Western Australia. Putting aside the impact that everyone is facing because of COVID-19, there is good investment and there is a future. But, as we on this side have always said, forestry needs to be undertaken in a way that people have confidence that the balance is right. We need to protect jobs, but we also need to protect those areas of the forest that the community values very highly. That is why we on this side of the house do not support logging in old-growth forest and we are prepared —

**Mr D.T. Redman** interjected.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Member for Warren–Blackwood, it is every time! What happened in Bridgetown is a great example. There is a coupe —

**Mr D.T. Redman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warren–Blackwood!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Only 14 hectares of that coupe are left. We have simply paused logging to make sure that no old-growth forest has been inadvertently missed, because once it has been logged, that is it; it is not old-growth forest anymore. All we have done is pause logging to make that reassessment so that the community can be confident that old-growth forest is being protected. At the same time, if members opposite stop talking down the industry, great investments, such as we have seen from Parkside, can continue and jobs can be protected.