

TIMBER INDUSTRY — FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — LOGGING

1049. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Water:

- (1) Can the minister advise whether the government has a policy that precludes the export of small logs from the thinning of regrowth jarrah forests within water catchment areas?
- (2) If yes to (1), is the policy publicly available?
- (3) If no to (1), can the minister advise whether the government would support a proposal to carry out commercial thinning of overstocked jarrah regrowth forests in order to increase water yield, economic value, jobs and forest health?
- (4) Can the minister advise whether the government would support a proposal to use timber derived from professionally conducted thinning operations in the jarrah forest for the generation of electricity?
- (5) Can the minister advise whether the Forest Products Commission is actively pursuing any schemes that will see the commercial thinning of overstocked regrowth jarrah forests within water catchments?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Water, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)–(4) The Forest Products Commission and the state government will consider the merits of proposals that are in accordance with the “Forest management plan 2014–2023”.
- (5) I am advised that the FPC is not currently pursuing any schemes of this nature.