

FORESTRY — GREENBUSHES

506. Hon DIANE EVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to Brickworks Ltd's ASX media release of 21 March 2019, "Property earnings underpin record first half underlying NPAT", which outlines the company's intention to sell its Auswest Timbers Pty Ltd hardwood operations in Greenbushes.

Will the government take this opportunity to —

- (a) rapidly phase out native forest logging to protect native forests for their potential sustainable use by industries such as tourism, recreation and honey production; their unique value as wildlife habitat; and their significant carbon capture and storage capacity; and
- (b) support workers directly employed in this industry to retrain and find alternative employment?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The following information has been provided by the Minister for Forestry.

- (a) No; the McGowan government supports the native timber industry and its contribution to the Western Australian economy.
- (b) Not applicable. While the business is for sale, it continues to operate.