

NATIVE FOREST — LOGGING

689. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to yesterday's joint media statement headed "McGowan Government's historic move to protect native forests", which has effectively and abruptly ended the native timber industry in Western Australia.

- (1) Why did the government not take this policy to the March election?
- (2) Why was the industry not consulted or at the very least advised of the government's decision prior to yesterday's announcement?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I provide the following information on behalf of the minister representing the Minister for Environment.

- (1) The policy direction for the forthcoming *Forest management plan 2024–2033* was a government decision. Questions regarding campaign decisions should be referred to the relevant party.
- (2) The Minister for Environment and the Minister for Forestry meet regularly with stakeholders, including industry. The government is required to establish a policy direction for the forthcoming *Forest management plan 2024–2033*.

The development of the *Forest management plan 2014–2023* includes extensive consultation with industry stakeholders over an extended period of 12 to 18 months.