

HARDWOOD TIMBER INDUSTRY

**594. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:**

I refer to the commitment by the Minister for Forestry in February to ensure that the supply of sawlogs recovered from mine site clearings are given priority allocations to high-value-adding local industries. Despite this, I note reports from the WA Furniture Manufacturers Association that high-quality sawlogs, like the sawlogs in this picture, are instead being processed for firewood and not furniture.

Given the Minister for Forestry gave her commitment that this government would maintain the supply of native timber for those high-value uses, will the Premier intervene to ensure that supply is indeed maintained?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

I note that the forest management plan does not actually begin until next year, so it is probably a little bit early to come out of the blocks with these alarmist declarations. I will continue to take advice on these things but, of course, we obviously want to elevate the value of these important assets to make sure that they return as much value as possible to the Western Australian economy. I am sure that the Minister for Forestry has those considerations uppermost in her mind.