

JARRAH SAWLOG VOLUMES, COMMITMENT

813. Mr OMODEI to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

Given that the Government's forest industry restructure is now causing irreparable damage to the economy of south west towns -

- (1) Can the minister confirm that some sawmillers have been given a commitment for first and second grade jarrah sawlogs but the vast majority have not; and, if so, why?
- (2) Which sawmillers have received a commitment and what are the volumes?
- (3) When the Government made its announcement about jarrah volumes, why did it not also announce the volumes of karri, marri, blackbutt and third grade jarrah?
- (4) How could the Nannup and Greenbushes mills be awarded contracts before the completion of the management plan, and why have no other mills been awarded similar contracts?

Mr LOGAN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question; however, the member is aware that initially the question was incorrectly addressed to the Minister for the Environment. It should have been directed in writing to me in my capacity as parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Unfortunately, by the time I became aware of the question, I was not able to obtain an answer. However, if the member wishes to ask the question again tomorrow, I will be more than happy to provide him with an answer.

Point of Order

Mr OMODEI: This question was given on notice to the Minister for the Environment and the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. This matter has been outstanding since this Government came to power. Both ministers are well and truly aware of what has happened. It has been discussed in Cabinet and the cabinet standing committee. There is no reason that this question cannot be answered.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Members can ask questions of any minister, which the minister can hopefully answer. In this case, the parliamentary secretary could not answer the question, which is what he told the member for Warren-Blackwood.