

TREE FARMING — GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

3778. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Agriculture and Food

In relation to the State Government's role in tree farming, I ask:

- (a) how many tree share-farmers does the Government have a contract with;
- (b) In what shires are these share-farmers located;
- (c) that the Minister provide documentation listing the names of the landholders who have a contract to grow trees on a shared basis with the Government; and
- (d) what is the cost to Government over the next 10 year period under these shared contracts?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

Forest Products Commission

- (a) Approximately 550.
- (b) These share farmers are located in 49 local government areas, stretching from Coorow to Esperance.
Local government areas where FPC share farms are located —
Albany, Beverley, Boddington, Boyup Brook, Brookton, Broome Hill, Bridgetown, Bruce Rock, Chittering, Coorow, Cranbrook, Cuballing, Cunderdin, Dalwallinu, Dandaragan, Dowerin, Dumbleyung, Esperance, Gingin, Gnowangerup, Goomalling, Harvey, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kellerberrin, Kent, Kojonup, Kulin, Meckering, Moora, Nannup, Narrogin, Northam, Pingelly, Plantagenet, Quairading, Ravensthorpe, Tambellup, Tammin, Toodyay, Victoria Plains, Wagin, Wandering, West Arthur, Wickopin, Williams, Wongan-Ballidu, Woodanilling, York.
- (c) It is not appropriate for me to provide the personal information of the individual landowners who have sharefarming agreements with the FPC.
- (d) The cost to the FPC for these contracts depends on the terms and conditions of each individual contract however it will include the financial arrangements to access the land, plantation maintenance responsibilities and arrangements to deal with future timber harvest revenues.

The annual cost to the FPC in these sharefarming contracts is in the order of \$4m to \$5m per annum depending on the plantation maintenance activity required in any one year. This annual cost will also diminish over the next few years as the FPC disposes of much of the sharefarm estate.