

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — VINCE ERASMUS

955. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the minister's media statement of just over a year ago announcing the appointment of Vince Erasmus as general manager of the Forest Products Commission and her confidence that Mr Erasmus would lead the commission with a great sense of direction and purpose. Is it true that Mr Erasmus has advised the minister or her office of his intention to resign from the position; and, if so, why has he resigned so prematurely?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

The member is taking a keen interest in forestry. It is important to his electorate. It is a fantastic industry.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston and Leader of the National Party, just relax.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I thank the member for the —

Mr M.P. Murray: Pussies of the Parliament!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am not quite sure how to take that one, Mr Speaker.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, do you know that you are on three calls? The more I am trying not to evict people, the more people want me to evict them.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Vince Erasmus was the managing director of the Forest Products Commission. He has served exceptionally well and has done his job incredibly well. He informed the commissioners that he would not continue to seek to be employed by the Forest Products Commission.

Mr M. McGowan: Why?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I will not discuss issues of employment with the Parliament. Vince Erasmus has handed in his resignation to the chair of the Forest Products Commission.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Health, I call you for the first time. Member for Cockburn, I call you for the second time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I put on record that in the time Mr Erasmus has been employed by the Forest Products Commission, he has acquitted his duties very well. We will go about employing a new managing director to ensure that that organisation continues to have leadership.