

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — SOFTWOOD PLANTATION INDUSTRY

**208. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Forestry:**

I ask a supplementary question. Will the minister concede that walking away from the softwood plantation area will mean further cuts in the state's natural forest?

**Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:**

If I understand the supplementary question correctly, the member is suggesting that we are walking away from the softwood plantation sector, which we are not. I said that we would honour the contracts that are in place. He asked about the change in cuts to the native forest area. Is he suggesting that there would be an increase in cuts?

**Mr M.P. Murray:** Yes.

**Mr D.T. REDMAN:** We have the shadow Minister for Forestry concerned about increasing cuts in the native forest sector. The member would be absolutely aware that the process we have in place for the harvest of our native forests is under the forest management plan that is managed by the Minister for Environment. We have been going through that process for the past two years. We have the shadow minister asking a question, highlighting his lack of understanding of the process.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, will you please answer the question through the Chair and come to a conclusion.

**Mr D.T. REDMAN:** The reference that the member for Collie–Preston makes to changes in the available cut of the native forest sector and the access that the Forest Products Commission has to that comes under the forest management plan, which is under the remit of the Minister for Environment. We are going through that process. New contracts will be issued as a product of that landing point before the end of this year.