

FORESTRY — JARRAH FORESTS

1600. Hon Steve Martin to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment; Climate Action; Racing and Gaming:

I refer to the article “what does publicly available data reveal about changes in jarrah forest structure and density since 2001” written by Dr Lachie McCaw and published in the forestry profession journal *The Forester*, and I ask:

- (a) how does the Minister respond to the statement in the article “these data demonstrate jarrah forest subject to timber harvesting and silvicultural treatment has regenerated successfully and continues to grow despite potential adverse effects of climate change”; and
- (b) will the Minister make available the full range of Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions’ data on forest growth since 2001?

Hon Darren West replied:

- (a) A range of biological and management factors influence tree growth in WA’s south-west native forests.
- (b) Since 2001, data on the growth of south-west native forest trees has been collected through a wide variety of projects across the department and for different time periods in research projects, operational trials, inventory programs and remote sensing. Forest growth rates are determined by many interacting factors and interpretation of the data is best undertaken in the context of the individual studies and settings. I consider it would be an inappropriate diversion of resources to collate all this information when much of it has and will continue to be published through scientific and other reporting.