

BUNNINGS FOREST PRODUCTS PTY LTD, PEMBERTON KARRI MILL

259. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Forest Products:

I refer to the Ministers statement that Bunnings Pemberton karri mill will have its annual sawlog supply reduced from about 100,000 cubic metres to about 30,000 cubic metres from 2004, and ask -

- (a) will the mill be able to operate on 30,000 cubic metres or will it be forced to close down;
- (b) does the Government have any financial assistance set aside for the mill in case it does close its doors, and if yes, how much; and
- (c) is Sotico looking at selling the mill?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (a) Those comments were based on a simple pro-rata calculation based on existing allocations. Allocation of the post 2003 karri resource will be a complex matter and will be developed in consultation with the whole karri sawmill industry.
- (b) The amount of assistance required will depend on outcomes of (a) and the extent to which plantation and marri resources can supplement the karri allocation.
- (c) This question should be directed to Sotico.