

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — ANNUAL PLANTATION HARVEST

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

I refer to the minister's response to question on notice 2928 concerning softwood plantations, in which she advised —

The FPC has identified a possible shortfall in pine resources available to meet future contracted supply commitments.

- (1) What is the Forest Products Commission doing to address the future shortfall of softwood being planted by FPC and private growers?
- (2) What measures are being offered to private growers to increase planting to meet future shortfalls in supply?

**Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. Forestry is a very valuable industry for Western Australia. I have thoroughly enjoyed the forestry portfolio over the past 12 months, and I know that, previous to that, the current Minister for Regional Development held it.

The member is entirely correct in being concerned about our ability to meet future softwood supplies. The Forest Products Commission is currently working on a plantation industry strategy to develop the plantation estate to a level that will ensure that we have long-term viability in that industry. I give my undertaking and commitment to ensure that we are doing everything we can to meet our requirements under our contracts. I understand how important the industry is to the member's electorate.