

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — \$13 MILLION LOSS

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

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister now admit that after losing \$13 million and \$11 million over the last two financial reporting periods, the minister's restructuring has failed?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

No, I will not. I see the restructure that we have put in place as absolutely essential to get FPC back on a secure financial footing. What I find interesting about this is the confusion that I see in the public media from the shadow Minister for Forestry about where he stands on the forest industry in Western Australia. He needs to talk to people in the industry to hear their position and what they think this government is doing about this sector. It will be really interesting to see what the opposition says in the lead-up to the next election, because I know that there are a range of different views, and that is going to be a huge challenge for members of the Labor Party. I absolutely stand by the position that we have taken. I am very comfortable about the current and projected financials. We are in very close discussions with Treasury and industry to ensure that we can maintain a sustainable footing that supports industry and jobs in regional Western Australia. We need an industry. What is the member's position for supporting the industry? It was not what he gave us in the Forest Products Commission.

The SPEAKER: Welcome back, member for Scarborough.