

FORESTS AND FORESTRY, RESTRUCTURING FUNDING

357. Hon P D Omodei to the Premier

I refer to the Australian Labor Party's policy on the restructure of forests and ask -

- (a) what funding was provided or is likely to be provided separately by the State and Federal Governments;
- (b) what funding in total has been made available to date;
- (c) what funding will be provided in the four year forward budget allocations;
- (d) which bodies/authorities are/will be responsible for allocation and distribution of the funding;
- (e) what is the purpose of the funding;
- (f) where have funds been expended so far;
- (g) what expenditure is currently committed or planned;
- (h) is there a time limit on when funds need to be spent; and
- (i) is there a region or regions of Western Australia that this funding is restricted to?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (a) The total funding package released on 1 June, 2001 was \$123.476 million which includes the \$15 million previously promised by the Federal Government.
- (b) Current Allocations in 2000/01 total \$16.610 million.
- (c) This figure will be provided in the budget papers.
- (d)-(e) Funding will be spent as follows

The Department of Industry & Technology will be responsible for:

The Industry Development Fund & Investment Attractions, Integrated Service Centres in Manjimup and Bunbury, Business Exit Assistance & Timber Promotion Fund

The Department of Training will be responsible for:

The Workers Assistance Package

The Department of Conservation & Land Management will be responsible for:

Development of new National Parks, a Communication Plan and funding of a Project Director

The South West Development Commission will be responsible for:

Implementing elements of the Warren-Blackwood Action Statement

The Department of Family & Children's Services will be responsible for:

Provision of Counselling Services

(f)-(g)

- (i) A number of Business Exit Assistance Offers have been made but I am not at liberty to announce those as companies have 28 days to accept the offers.
- (ii) Up to \$5 million was promised to the Pemberton Mill by the previous government - a commitment that will be honoured.
- (iii) \$991,900 is being paid to the new owners of the Nannup Mill to construct the processing centre adjacent to the mill.
- (iv) A number of small payments for feasibility studies into potential projects have been made.
- (v) \$1 million for the tourist icon project in the Donnelly River Valley, contingent on matching Commonwealth funds.
- (h) No formal time limit exists but it is expected that funds will be spent by 30 June, 2005.
- (i) The funding applies to companies and workers affected by the impact of the policy.

