

OLD-GROWTH FOREST, LOGGING

**795. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:**

As a supplementary question, is it not true that after two and a half years, as a result of the Government's old-growth forest policy, old-growth trees are still being logged in the south west?

**Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:**

We made it clear that we would stop the logging of old-growth forests in Western Australia.

Mr C.J. Barnett: So stop cutting the trees down.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It is a ridiculous question.

Mr C.J. Barnett: No, it is not. Answer it.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The Leader of the Opposition is so negative that he is almost off the scale of negativity in the way that he approaches issues in this Parliament.

Mr P.D. Omodei: Answer the question.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: We have stopped the logging of old-growth forests in Western Australia. We have delivered on our election promises. Today we launched a wilderness policy, which I announced before the election, to back up the situation in the Walpole wilderness area. The Walpole wilderness area is the basis upon which we will project Western Australia onto the global stage. Let us look at the differences between that side of the House and this side of the House. We are outward looking and members opposite are insular. We unite communities, we do not divide them. We have a policy based upon sustainability, not short-term thinking. We believe in justice in our community, not injustice. Those are the differences between the two sides of politics. We are very proud of our achievements in forestry. The fact that the Opposition is scraping the bottom of the barrel with a question like that indicates how bereft it is of relevant questions.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Answer it. You cannot answer a simple question like that.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the Leader of the Opposition and the members for Alfred Cove, Vasse and Carine.