

JARRAH ALLOCATION OF 130 000 CUBIC METRES

883. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:

I am pleased that today the Premier raised the issue of jobs. I refer to the Government's old-growth forest policy and an article in *The West Australian* of 6 December 2001 headed "Timber cuts" with the subheading "1000 workers will lose jobs, admits Gallop".

- (1) Is it true that the Government is considering an allocation of 130 000 cubic metres of jarrah for the timber industry?
- (2) Is it also true that, at that level, no new furniture industry will develop at Manjimup?
- (3) Given that a furniture industry at Manjimup would not be viable unless it was allocated at least 170 000 cubic metres, when will the Premier make a decision on that matter?
- (4) Is the Premier aware that, given the levels of timber being considered by Cabinet, Sotico's mills at Deanmill and Yarloop and its Manjimup processing centre and Cardoso's mill at Dwellingup will close, causing further massive payouts and huge job losses?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (1)-(4) I hate to disappoint the member, but this matter has not been before Cabinet for consideration. When it is and Cabinet has reached its conclusion, the Government will inform the people of Western Australia of the decision.