

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — SOFTWOOD ESTATE

4649. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Forestry:

- (1) In respect of comments made in the Forest Products Commission (FPC) 2014–15 Annual Report that in the event of an asset sale its program to “rebuild the softwood estate” will “need to be adjusted accordingly”:
 - (a) for each of the three aspects of the program - implementing a plan to access more land for pines; working with the Department of Water to replant pines in the Wellington Catchment area; and increasing productivity of the current estate - what planning has been undertaken to facilitate a smooth transition for the program under private ownership and when will the transition planning be finalised;
 - (b) which of the same three aspects have been paused or cancelled as part of the asset sale decision; and
 - (c) what mechanisms will the State Government put in place to ensure a private buyer is bound to farm softwood plantation areas in such a way that they are sustainable, rather than for the life of set limited years or decades-long business investment, but perpetually for generations to come?
- (2) On both current producing plantations and greenfields plantations which are confirmed to be going ahead, at what point in time, under current projections, is the demand for plantation timber expected to outstrip supply?
- (3) Are plans announced in the FPC’s 2014–15 Annual Report to replant 500 hectares of pine forest on the Gngangara Mound in July 2016 to build foraging habitats for Carnaby’s cockatoos still in place, and if not, why not?

Ms M.J. Davies replied:

- (1)
 - (a) Planning for a transition to private ownership will only commence when a decision is made on the future ownership of the State-owned softwood plantations.
 - (b) The Forest Products Commission (FPC) is continuing to work on each of the aspects of the program to rebuild the softwood estate.
 - (c) See 1(a)
- (2) The FPC has identified a possible shortfall in pine resources available to meet future contracted supply commitments. There is a high degree of uncertainty regarding the likelihood, timing and amount of any potential shortfall.
- (3) No. Measures to address the impacts of pine harvesting on Carnaby’s cockatoo are being addressed through the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Region.