

HARDWOOD TIMBER INDUSTRY

595. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given the Premier's response, why is it that the Minister for Forestry has failed to ensure that those furniture-quality logs are in fact being delivered to mills and not being used for firewood?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Who said that the minister has failed? As I said, the forest management plan does not actually begin until next year. We will continue to manage all the stakeholders to ensure that we do two things: one, that we end native old-growth logging, which is an important achievement and, two, that we continue to work with stakeholders, particularly the workers and the sawmills —

Dr D.J. Honey: It is mine-clearing operations.

Mr R.H. COOK: I know that.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: We will continue to work with all stakeholders as we transition through this important process. Obviously, when mining companies clear land under their mine management plans and are authorised to do so, that provides another opportunity to access very precious logs and timber. Clearly, we want to maximise that outcome. I stress that it is some time before the FMP actually takes place, and we will continue to monitor the situation.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.