

FOREST PRODUCTS AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [3.31 pm]: I am pleased to rise today to speak on the Forest Products Amendment Bill 2021 —

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn, do you want to wait five seconds for everyone to clear?

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: It is fairly forgettable, Acting Speaker. I do not think anyone will miss anything, including Hansard, but I would appreciate the chamber's indulgence, Acting Speaker, and acknowledge firstly that today is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. It is a very significant day that was set by the General Assembly of the United Nations some years ago. It is an important day when we reflect on the scourge of family, domestic and other types of violence perpetrated towards women. We know that family and domestic violence is overwhelmingly perpetrated against women by men. It is something that our society is still very much grappling with and today is an important day to reflect on what more we can do. We are very fortunate to be part of a government that has a Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence who is doing very good work, but we can always do more.

I also want to acknowledge that today is the first day of the 16 Days in WA campaign. This is a Western Australian campaign to raise awareness of violence against women in our community and to advocate for greater action and solutions to a problem that affects our community. This morning I was very fortunate to be at the Yangebup Family Centre for a forum with the Minister for Education and Training, but later today the family centre will host an event as part of the 16 Days in WA campaign. It is often family centres and other types of community services that are really at the front line on these sorts of issues. I commend all those organisations and I commend the efforts of this government. All I will say is that there is more to do and I am confident that this government will rise to that challenge.

I turn to the subject matter of the bill. Obviously, the main purpose of the bill before the house is to provide the Forest Products Commission with the ability to deal and trade in carbon assets, which will mainly be things like carbon credits. It also includes provisions that will enable the Forest Products Commission to buy land for the purpose of establishing the plantations that will need to be established under the government's climate action plan, which includes the climate action fund and the significant expansion of our softwood industry.

I want to start by reflecting on the fact that this bill is an important component of this government's commitment to taking action on climate change. This is a government that believes the science on climate change. It knows that climate change is real and is human induced and that it is up to us, as a collective responsibility, to do something about it. Of course, that, unfortunately, contrasts with the position that the federal Liberal and National Parties have taken on climate change over a number of years, very disappointingly. There was some criticism seemingly made in some of the earlier contributions from members of the opposition about the lack of movement in state-level carbon trading. I really thought that criticism beggared belief, because the reason Australia has had such difficulties with establishing a thriving carbon trading market is that the federal government has simply never been able to get its act together on climate change or putting a price on carbon. Businesses and state and local governments have been calling out for a sensible, certain position on climate action, carbon emissions and carbon trading for at least a decade, yet we have seen the internecine war within the federal Liberal and National Parties just completely derail the prospect of any kind of action on climate change.

I quote from an ABC online news article of 9 July 2014 by Latika Bourke. It is titled "LNP backbencher George Christensen likens climate change to science fiction film plot". This is what Mr Christensen, the federal member for Dawson, who I believe sits in the National Party room within the Liberal National Party of Queensland, had to say —

"In Australia, we have crossed that point where the horror genre is descending into a comedy,"

"It's hard to tell the difference between an alarmist claim about global effects and the basic premise of a disaster movie plot.

"The weather and climate in Australia has not changed in the last century but a new religious interpretation has arisen since then.

"When we are in a flood, they tell us 'too much rain is a sign, more hurricanes is a sign, fewer hurricanes is a sign, the sky is blue—it's a sign, gravity—it's a sign'."

Apart from the fact that what Mr Christensen has to say there is barely comprehensible English, it is not coherent as a set of ideas about climate change. It flies in the face of the science. That is why it is so important to have

a government here in Western Australia that believes in the signs of climate change and is taking real action. The science is in. If we do not act now, there will be very serious consequences for not only the environment, but also our economy and our ability to capture the jobs of the future.

It is just incredibly disappointing that the Liberal and National Parties have never been able to get themselves together on this issue. I say that this bill is a chance. The state government's climate action fund is a chance for them to get on board and prove that they take climate change seriously and are committed to ensuring that we not only protect our environment for future generations, but also grab the economic opportunities that are available now in clean energy industries and green manufacturing so that our kids in the future can prosper in the same way that Western Australians have prospered over the last hundred years.

I said at the outset that this bill will enable the establishment of our climate action fund. That is a very significant commitment from the state government to combat climate change. Part of that is the \$350 million commitment to significantly expand the softwood plantation. That goes hand in glove with the McGowan government's commitment to end all logging of native forests in Western Australia. Obviously, there will be some exceptions to that around thinning and the like, but, by and large, under the future forest management plan, there will be an end to logging in native forests. That decision has been broadly welcomed by the community. Many people in my electorate of Cockburn have told me that it is a fantastic step. This builds on the legacy of the Gallop government in ending the logging of old-growth forests. It shows that the Labor Party is the party that delivers on tangible environmental protections and moving our economy into the future.

One of the refrains we have heard from members of the opposition in this place when discussing the government's package is the criticism that communities throughout the south west are outraged about this, that the government will put people out of work and that this is completely out of step with the community. I will take issue with those comments for a couple of minutes. My family originally came from Nannup. My grandparents were small business owners and, for many years, reliable Liberal voters.

Ms C.M. Rowe interjected.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I know, member for Belmont, but there are at least one or two in every family!

My grandparents were small business proprietors who ran Nannup Motors. As people cross the bridge to go into Nannup, on the left is where the Nannup Bridge Cafe used to be. That was Nannup Motors, which was owned by my family, the Rowe family. We wondered whether there was a relationship between my family and the member for Belmont, but apparently there is not. My grandparents were traditional country small business owners and Liberal voters. One thing I have a very distinct memory of when we visited Nannup was my pop taking me out as a kid to show me the areas that had been felled and commenting on what a disgrace it was. He was a reliable, conservative voter who saw the absolute destruction of the beautiful natural heritage in our south west as a complete crime. He lived his whole life in Nannup. He was the local school bus driver and a St John Ambulance volunteer. He knew everybody who worked at the mill. All those years ago, he knew that the logging of the native forests would be looked upon in shame by future generations.

Mr D.J. Kelly: He should have gone into politics by the sounds of it.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: The problem is that I do not think he would have ended up on the right side, Minister for Forestry!

Mr D.J. Kelly: He'd be better than what they've got.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Quite possibly he would have been better than the current opposition. He was an agrarian socialist who understood the value of the south west forests. I do not take it for granted that just because people in the opposition's echo chamber are telling them that this is a big mistake, that position is reflected in the broader community. I can tell members now that it is not reflected in my community, and I do not think it would be reflected in the communities of Nannup or Manjimup to the extent that the opposition likes to believe it is. I have been involved in this space for a few years. I used to convene the Labor Party's environmental policy committee back in the late 2000s. I remember speaking to representatives from the Australian Workers' Union, the WA Forest Alliance and the forestry industry. Everybody behind the scenes would say that the government does not need to take any aggressive action on the logging of native forests because the industry will just die a natural death anyway, because it is not sustainable. That is what industry insiders were saying. They said that eventually—10 or 20 years down the track—the forestry industry would die off because it was not sustainable. That was reflected in the comments made in the chamber by the minister about Hon Paul Omodei, the president of the Shire of Manjimup, who said openly in a meeting that essentially the industry's best hope was that it would get one more forestry management plan out of the government. That is the inside view of the industry. It knew that its industry was not sustainable. All this government is doing is getting to the inevitable but doing it in a way that will support jobs and see an investment in the softwood plantation industry, which in turn will support the housing and construction sector through the supply of timber. It also includes a transition plan to ensure that workers in those industries are not left behind.

We hear this constant criticism from the opposition. Opposition members get really touchy when members of the government want to talk about their record under the Barnett government. They say, “It’s not relevant. You’ve been here for five years now; you need to own all the problems.” There are at least two reasons that the record of the opposition in government is absolutely relevant. The first relates to the opposition’s credibility. It needs credibility to stand up in front of the community and argue its position. Its record goes to its credibility. The second reason the opposition should be held accountable for its record is that past performance is its best predictor of future performance, and it has to present an alternative government. When people ask what sort of government a party will be, sure, they can look at current policies—they are pretty threadbare at the moment, and they were pretty threadbare at the election as well—or the policies it had when it was previously in government.

The Nationals WA were the kingmakers of the former conservative Barnett government in 2008. They extracted all sorts of concessions from the Liberal Party. That government did absolutely nothing to ensure the long-term future of the forestry industry. The great betrayal in this whole sorry saga is the fact that the Liberal and National Parties, which claim to be on the side of these communities, did nothing to protect their future in the almost nine years that they had to do something about it. In fact, as the minister has said to this chamber, all they did was plant five hectares of pine in 2010 and 2011, and in 2012, they planted none at all. It is not good enough to come into this place and say, “We don’t want to talk about our record because it’s inconvenient to us.” As I said earlier, it was an open secret that the forestry industry was not sustainable and it needed a long-term plan. The opposition failed to deliver that when it was in government. Members like the member for North West Central can come into this chamber and jeer and heckle as much as they like, but at the end of the day, the opposition is not putting a credible position as an alternative government. That is what it is. It is not just the opposition; it is the alternative government. As sad as the opposition might be as an alternative government, it is who the people of Western Australia are supposed to turn to if they say they have had enough of the McGowan government and they are going to turn to the opposition and see what it has to offer. At the moment, all opposition members are offering is criticism and undermining and, frankly, they are resting on their laurels when they should be talking about what needs to be done to take this industry forward. The opposition does not want to talk about that because what needs to be done is exactly what this government is doing. I am sure that it would have been better had some of these things been done 10 years ago, but that was on the Barnett Liberal government. It did not do it. It just wasted its time. I say to the residents of the south west forests, who have an outstanding member in the current member for Warren–Blackwood, “You have a government that is listening now. You have a government that is taking action to secure the long-term future of the timber industry and you have the member for Warren–Blackwood standing up for your concerns.” This package is an essential part of acting on climate change. It is an essential part of securing our natural assets for future generations. It is an essential part of making sure that we have a green economy that will provide the jobs of the future. For that reason, I very much will be voting in favour of the bill.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [3.50 pm]: I, too, rise with pleasure today to speak on the Forest Products Amendment Bill 2021. I start this contribution by acknowledging and congratulating the Minister for Forestry for bringing this really important legislation to the house. I am sure a lot of hard work has gone into the process. The bill will contribute to our government’s commitment to protecting our environment, shaping climate-resilient communities and helping Western Australians forge ahead towards a prosperous low-carbon future. The legislation will allow the Forest Products Commission to trade in carbon assets for the very first time. I must say on a personal note that I am rather excited about this, because as a very naive but idealistic 18 or 19-year-old, when the Kyoto Protocol touted the idea of engaging in carbon trading schemes, I thought that that was revolutionary—bear in mind that I am 41 years old now, so it was quite some years ago. I was very excited and motivated and I decided that I would engage in selling carbon credits even though I did not know anything about it. I went out and set up a business name, put all of \$200 into a business account with my local bank and got as many domain names as I could afford—carbontrading.com.au and all the rest. Of course, it was bitterly disappointing that that did not happen. I would like to acknowledge as well that, again, I was incredibly disappointed when the opportunity was presented to the federal government to take the lead on this many, many years ago. It was under a Labor government that Kevin Rudd put this opportunity before the federal Parliament to do something incredibly significant to address climate change but, of course, that opportunity was squandered because of the Greens and their inability to have any kind of compromise at all on this. They wanted the perfect rather than having a good solid program in place that could have done huge things to turn around climate change, certainly in this country.

Nonetheless, I am incredibly proud to be talking about what we are doing here in the state of Western Australia to address climate change and to do our bit towards what are inevitably man-made problems that are affecting our climate and, indeed, our whole environment. Of course, being part of the lucrative carbon offset market will help generate energy for future carbon industry jobs and for Western Australians right across our state. But, importantly, as I mentioned, it will make a big difference in our response to climate change, which in my view is the single most important and most pressing issue of our time. I hope that all members in the chamber acknowledge that it is our responsibility to do everything that we can to turn that around.

Carbon capture, of course, is one of the most effective ways to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and, of course, carbon dioxide is one of the main greenhouse gases that cause climate change, as many will know. The FPC currently has no rights in respect of carbon assets and it is restricted in dealing with physical forest products such as log timber. This legislation will now give the FPC the ability to own, deal and trade in carbon assets related to plantation resources, such as carbon credits provided under the national carbon farming legislation. The bill signals the McGowan government's commitment to tackling climate change, which is arguably the biggest threat that countries all around the world will face. We know we have to act and we know that we have to act right now.

We made a commitment to transition the Western Australian economy to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. But I truly hope that we will look for ways to bring this forward, because the situation that we face is dire. I would ask the minister to consider credible interim targets to help us get there, and get there sooner. We must act more quickly than we are at present. I know that both the Minister for Climate Action and the Minister for Forestry are doing an incredible job in this space, and I again congratulate them. We are doing our bit, and I know that we will continue to do great things in this space.

This year's state budget continued our track record of action, delivering on a range of initiatives designed to address the threat of climate change, as well as help industry flourish and thrive, and of course create sustainable jobs. As the member for Cockburn just touched on, that is a critical part of our mandate as a Labor government in both this Parliament and the previous Parliament. We are making sure that at every step of the way, particularly with regard to our stimulus package during the COVID aftermath, we are always considering people's jobs. This an extension of that. We are looking at sustainable jobs, which is fantastic.

As part of the budget, we have committed \$750 million to our climate action fund. This will be a key driver in Western Australia's low-carbon future. Within this fund is a suite of measures to shape climate-resilient communities, create low-carbon jobs and develop new industries. I want to take a moment to highlight just a few of those. It includes \$206 million for renewable energy initiatives to fuel WA's future, with standalone power stations; clean energy in schools; wind turbine manufacturing, which is fantastic; refurbishment of Denham power station; and \$1 million for research into the viability of a local green steel industry. In addition, a \$118 million fund will invest in future climate-related initiatives to respond to climate change and create climate-resilient communities. We are not only addressing the problems we have right now and trying to tackle them in the immediate term, but also looking to what the future climate problems will be, which I think is incredibly innovative. The fund also includes \$50 million to drive new renewable hydrogen initiatives, and \$26 million for carbon innovation grants to help manage coastal erosion. We have a lot of coast in Western Australia, so that is a fantastic initiative.

Of course, it also includes a record \$350 million to significantly expand the state's softwood plantation estate, to create and secure local jobs, and ensure a sustainable industry. The softwood timber industry in WA supplies the majority of timber products used by the state's housing and construction industry. Interestingly, and importantly, since 2014, native timber harvesting operations have operated at a loss. The opposition failed to acknowledge this very, very important fact. Softwood plantation operations, on the other hand, have operated at a significant profit, with a return of \$38.7 million to the taxpayer. Sustainably and locally produced plantation timber will play a key role in our strategy to tackle climate change. It is renewable, recyclable and biodegradable, and has the potential to capture millions of tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere. We estimate that our \$350 million investment will provide for the planting of at least 33 000 hectares of new pine plantations. Up to 50 million pine trees will be planted, sequestering between 7.9 and 9.5 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. This legislation means that the Forest Products Commission will be able to trade carbon credits and generate revenue from the carbon sequestered in those pines. In addition, our \$350 million investment will create around 140 timber industry jobs and protect approximately 1 900 existing jobs.

I am really proud of our government's contribution to protecting the environment and tackling climate change, but also making sure that the jobs in those areas and those communities most affected will be protected and there will be new industries for those workers.

I was really inspired, I must say, when I saw the historic announcement to end logging in our south west native forests from 2024. I would like to take this opportunity to put on the record my congratulations to the Minister for Environment for this absolutely landmark decision. It means that at least an additional 400 000 hectares of karri, jarrah and wandoo forest will be preserved, which means that nearly two million hectares of native forest will be protected for future generations. This is absolutely remarkable.

WA's native forests are an important natural asset that are highly valued by Western Australians, and they play a vital ecological and economic role for our state. Our forests are not only beautiful, but also much-loved as an ecotourism attraction, and everyone loves heading down south. Most importantly, they provide critical carbon capture and storage. Our south west native forests store approximately 600 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. It is really a little hard to understand what that means, but it is my understanding that that represents 116 years' worth of annual emissions for every car in WA, so it is very important that it is maintained.

I am sure other members will agree when I say that decisions like the one I have just talked about make being a politician an incredibly privileged position. Even though I was not part of that decision—it was all to do with the minister and the Premier—it will have big impacts, and I am proud to be a very small part of a government that does things like that.

Preserving our environment for generations to come is a legacy we can all definitely be proud of, and it is supported by the community. Members on our side have illustrated that. It is really important to note that the member for Warren–Blackwood engaged extensively with her community, and it is supportive of this decision. Importantly, a survey of the public and the industry was conducted earlier this year on the question of the future of our south west native forests. Nearly 17 000 responses were received; 95 per cent of respondents were in favour of more areas of native forest being protected, and 73 per cent agreed that no native forest harvesting should occur. That is important to note, because I think the opposition likes to over-egg public opposition to the historic decision to end native forest logging.

We are also doing other really important things in the environmental space. We are fast-tracking our Plan for Plastics. Plastic waste has a massive detrimental impact on the environment, both here and right across the globe. It is one of the greatest threats to wildlife around the world, and WA is leading the way in banning single-use plastics and, in turn, saving hundreds of millions of single-use plastic items from becoming landfill. I am thrilled that our single-use plastic bowls, cups, plates, cutlery, stirrers, straws, polystyrene food containers and thick plastic bags, along with helium balloon releases, will all be phased out by the end of this year. Single-use plastic coffee cups and lids are now included in the plan, and they will be phased out by the end of 2022, along with cotton buds, plastic sharps, plastic produce bags and microbeads. That will make a huge difference to our waterways and oceans and all the wildlife contained within them.

Western Australians love the coastline, and this will help protect it and keep it in its current pristine condition. In addition to our climate action fund, this year's state budget also included funding for a range of initiatives to help us progress to a low-carbon future and to develop new industries, create jobs and ensure a secure and reliable energy supply into the future. We are protecting natural assets while investing in the innovative energy initiatives and industries of the future, like renewable hydrogen and carbon farming.

It is important to me, in this place and right across the community, that we do as much as we can to ensure that the beautiful natural environment that we are so lucky to have here in WA is preserved for our future generations to enjoy for many more years to come. As I have mentioned throughout my brief contribution, we have done a great deal for the environment, but we are not being complacent, which I am really pleased to see, because there is so much more to do in our attempts to address climate change here in WA. Climate change is the single biggest issue we face in the modern world. I trust and hope our government will continue along this very positive trajectory for the sake of future generations.

This bill is a wonderful reform and I wholeheartedly commend it to the house.

MS C.M. COLLINS (Hillarys) [4.04 pm]: It is my honour to speak about the Forest Products Amendment Bill 2021. I am proud that it was a McGowan government that made a commitment to transition the Western Australian economy to net zero greenhouse gases by 2050. Not only have we promised or committed to this, but also we plan to legislate this. This is in contrast to the federal government, which has, only very recently, committed to net zero emissions by 2050, but with no detailed plan and no modelling to back it up.

The proposed amendments will unlock the potential of the Forest Products Commission and begin the important work in trading carbon assets. It will mean leaving nearly two million hectares of native forests protected for future generations. The commission has always stood for responsible management of our natural resources, but these amendments will allow the commission to step into a new, exciting chapter for our state and our forests.

Nearly 17 000 people responded to the online forest management plan survey about the future of the state's native forests, with 95 per cent of respondents saying more should be done to protect the forests and 73 per cent agreeing that native forest logging should not occur at all. This government heard that loud and clear.

I am delighted to speak on such an important step in the climate action campaign within my first year serving as the member for Hillarys. It was in September this year that the McGowan government made the historic announcement to end the logging of native Western Australian forests. This follows a proud tradition set by the Gallop state government to make WA the first state in Australia to cease harvesting old-growth forests. We will support the south west forest communities with a \$350 million package to expand and grow renewable softwood plantations. This will create thousands of jobs and build a more efficient and sustainable timber industry that will offset millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Rod Campbell, an economist and research director at the Australia Institute, said that the end of native forest logging represents not just good environmental policy, but also good economic policy. Labor governments never leave workers high and dry, so we have established a native forestry transition group of local industries, unions and government stakeholders to develop a just transition plan. The sum of \$50 million will be set aside for these important efforts, and it is a plan that responds to the signals that we have been receiving from nature.

As Julian Sharp, a farm forester, said, it will provide him with much better access to timber markets now for sustainably grown plantation timber, whereas before he was trying to compete with subsidised native forest logging.

Why did we need all this to happen? In 2019, the Water Corporation reported that Denmark had experienced one of its driest years since 1911. The town had recorded four of its driest years within the previous five years. We know from federal government reports that these changing conditions affect the viability of the native timber industry. Some of these warnings are from 10 years ago. For example, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences released a report in 2011 titled *Potential effects of climate change on forests and forestry in Australia*. This classified Manjimup as being highly vulnerable to changing weather patterns.

Some tree species become less productive under projected warmer and drier conditions. Growth rates for all tree species decrease as temperatures increase. Most tree species, such as gum trees, grow slower with decreasing rainfall. Log availability from Australian hardwood plantations and native forests is projected to decline due to climate change, and one estimate is a 35 per cent reduction in hardwood log availability by 2030. Is this a changing environment or is it really the best idea to continue to log established old-growth forests? When the logging reforms were announced, my inbox was filled with emails from Hillarys constituents who, despite being far away from the south west, wanted to congratulate the McGowan government on this historic announcement. They said that it was forward thinking, a commonsense approach and another example of this government's record of strong leadership.

My team and I had a stall at the Edith Cowan University Sustainability Festival at Hillarys Boat Harbour on 26 September, and across from us was the WA Forest Alliance's stall. The students held up a sign that said, "Thank you; the forests are rejoicing", and thousands of people across my electorate and the northern suburbs signed it. I would like to thank the many environmentalists in the electorate of Hillarys for their advocacy and communications on this important matter. In particular, I give a special shout-out to Marilyn Zakrevsky, a Mullaloo resident who is part of the group Nannas for Native Forests.

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

Ms C.M. COLLINS: These nannas have been tirelessly engaged in protesting against logging our forests for many, many years. Western Australians are now highly aware of falling rainfall levels, the precarious protections for our forests and the importance of old-growth assets for our developing ecotourism market.

I am very excited for the future of the Western Australian Forest Products Commission. I would also like to recognise the commission's recent good work in delivering \$40 000 in grants to support the south west community. These grants included a package for the Capel River Girl Guides to assist it with camping in our beautiful forests and support for the Arthur River Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade to purchase critical firefighting equipment. The commission spends over \$100 million a year on developing responsibly managed forest products, creating jobs and building Western Australia's reputation interstate and abroad for quality timber exports. Over \$1 million is directly spent by the commission on supporting and developing Aboriginal businesses through business contracts. These amendments recognise the fantastic work performed by the commission in the past and will usher in a new and exciting chapter. It is a chapter that will respond to the changing nature of global markets.

We need to modernise Western Australia's land use for the twenty-first century. The days when all we did was log, farm, build and mine are long gone. Economist Yanis Varoufakis noted in one of his recent books the contradiction of forest management under the traditional economic marketplace. He noted that under the marketplace model, the forest and natural world have no intrinsic market value until we cut or burn it down and sell off the products and the land, inflating our gross domestic product. How ridiculous that in the twenty-first century, the intrinsic value of the natural surroundings on our doorstep is not recognised until it is harvested, commoditised and then sold off! It is almost like the old tale of the delinquent child running around the village and smashing windows, thus value-adding to the community by creating employment opportunities through glass manufacture and the installation of replacement windows.

The surrounding forests and bushlands of Western Australia are one of our greatest natural assets and I believe now is the time to reassess their true value for our generation and future generations. It is not sustainable and it does not recognise the role that we have as stewards of our environment and as good global citizens in aligning ourselves to make meaningful efforts against the global heating threat. Our Western Australian forests are brimming with economic potential, and we can still work in parallel with the international fight against climate change. A recent report from the World Bank, entitled the *State and trends of carbon pricing 2020*, reveals governments across the world have raised more than \$US45 billion from carbon pricing in 2019. Over 1 600 major international companies have adopted internal carbon pricing mechanisms. These figures show the potential of results-based climate finance. Forty-two per cent of the credit market in the past five years has been tied to the carbon sequestration power of our forests. There are 61 carbon pricing initiatives in place or scheduled for implementation across the world. It would be a tragedy if we did not position our state to be at the forefront of these exciting new markets in order to produce true and lasting value from our forests. I am proud to commend this bill to the house.

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston) [4.15 pm]: I also rise to speak on the Forest Products Amendment Bill 2021 and would like to record my support for it. I am very pleased about the commitment this government has made to

transitioning the WA economy to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It is incredibly important that we have an environment, a community and a state within a country that is incredibly sustainable for our future generations. The government accepts the science that underpins our understanding of climate change, and we acknowledge that climate change has already had significant impacts on our environment and our community. In fact, some of the changes occurring in the Collie community around the coal and power industry are a direct example of these changes and the approach the McGowan Labor government has taken in this regard.

I know many people in this house understand I was a teacher in my previous life, and one of my favourite subjects to teach was geography. I taught geography at Eastern Hills Senior High School in Mundaring and at Collie Senior High School, and one of my favourite topics to cover was dry sclerophyll forests, the natural habitat of the jarrah and marri trees in Western Australia. It is an incredible forest, and the ecosystem is incredibly important to the biodiversity of the south west of Western Australia. We have some incredibly special species of trees, flora and fauna in that area. Protecting the flora and fauna is incredibly important.

I would like to touch on the just transition process, particularly as it relates to the forest industry. I would also like to give some examples of the Collie just transition process. I would firstly like to say that the government investment in this just transition process stands in stark contrast to that of many other governments around the world and, in fact, around Australia. They have made decisions about closing industries within local communities by which they literally shut the doors and walked away from the businesses. This government is not doing that. This government is committed to a just transition process in Collie for the coal and power industries and it is also committed to a just transition process for the forestry industry. I thank the minister, the Premier and all those involved for their support of my colleague the member for Warren–Blackwood in a very important and challenging process that will eventually bear fruit for her community, as it has done for mine. The important part of this just transition process is understanding the opportunities that come out of it. I feel that parts of Warren–Blackwood are quite similar to parts of my electorate of Collie–Preston. The opportunities in tourism, ecotourism, agriculture and the arts are things that the member for Warren–Blackwood and I probably have in common in our communities.

In terms of ecotourism, the sport of mountain biking has certainly flourished in the last couple of years in Western Australia. I note that many of my constituents in Collie–Preston leave the electorate to visit the electorate of Warren–Blackwood to attend the mountain biking trails at Linga Longa Bike Park in Balingup. The member for Warren–Blackwood and I do not fight over these things because we are very supportive of ecotourism in all our communities across the south west. Certainly, there are many opportunities for mountain biking in the member for Warren–Blackwood’s beautiful part of the world.

I would really like to highlight in Parliament today that the government has made a significant commitment to transitioning or supporting some of the industries within the Collie–Preston and Warren–Blackwood electorates. I will also highlight that last weekend the Minister for Environment, Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson, the Premier and I attended Wellington National Park to announce its expansion by over 7 000 hectares. The government has delivered on its commitment to expand the national park, bringing the Wellington National Park’s total area to 25 000 hectares. It was an incredible commitment by this government, understanding the incredible importance of the natural environment within all national parks around Western Australia. I thank the government for this opportunity. The expansion of Wellington National Park—sorry; the Minister for Tourism has totally distracted me. This commitment means that there are credible and expandable opportunities for ecotourism in my area.

Minister, I would like to point out the other opportunities the government has created in ecotourism around Collie. I would also like to touch on the arts, given it is also the minister’s portfolio, and remind him that Collie has an incredible A-class art gallery, only the second in Western Australia outside the Art Gallery of Western Australia. It is an incredibly special place. Again, these are some fantastic opportunities for areas transitioning out of traditional industries and into new industries. I recently took the minister to my art gallery. The Collie Art Gallery has just turned over the amazing exhibition that the minister and I visited of artwork by a Donnybrook artist. Again, Donnybrook is an area that is nearly in, or certainly borders, the member for Warren–Blackwood’s electorate. We have some incredible artists in our region —

Mr D.A. Templeman: You’re wearing some.

Ms J.L. HANNS: Thank you, minister. I had hoped that you would notice that.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It’s very fetching.

Ms J.L. HANNS: It took you a while, but thank you for noticing. Would you call it a caftan or a jacket? This amazing piece is made by local artist Diana Symes who sells work on commission out of the Collie Art Gallery. If anyone is looking to purchase something to expand their wardrobe, certainly the art gallery is the place to go when they next visit Collie.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Does she have it in a lounge suit?

Ms J.L. HANNS: I do not know but I could certainly ask her, minister.

Mr M.J. Folkard interjected.

Ms J.L. HANNS: Smoking slippers—no, there is no smoking in the building, member for Burns Beach. I am sorry about that.

I thank the minister for raising the outfit that I am wearing today. It is obviously in support of a very serious issue, the start of the 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence Against Women campaign. I thank Diana for her contribution to my outfit today, but I am wearing orange in support of this incredibly important day.

I would like to draw members' attention to another opportunity in ecotourism and again thank the Premier and the Minister for Environment for opening the Kaneang Wiilman suspension bridge over the Collie River. The bridge was completed and opened last weekend. People can walk over the Collie River and look at the jarrah forest. It is essentially a 360-degree experience, with surrounding bush sounds, flowing water and so on. I think it is an incredible opportunity for us all to understand and appreciate our natural environment for what it brings to the people of Western Australia and certainly to future generations.

I also highlight one other industry that is incredibly important around Collie's Just Transition. I speak in reference to a project that I may have mentioned to members previously, which is called Collicrete. Collicrete is an eco-concrete project developed in conjunction with Murdoch University. Martin Anda is an environmental science lecturer at Murdoch University and two of his fourth-year environmental science students have developed a prototype of a geopolymer concrete. This concrete is incredibly interesting because it reduces carbon emission in the community. I do not know whether members know much about concrete. It is not particularly sexy!

Mr D.A.E. Scaife: It is very emissions intensive.

Ms J.L. HANNS: It is very emissions intensive. I thank the member for Cockburn. The interesting thing about Collicrete is that it enables the production of concrete without creating emissions. Portland cement is used to manufacture traditional concrete and is heated to 1 200 degrees Celsius in a furnace in order to produce the Portland cement. Members can imagine how much concrete exists around the world and all of those furnaces firing up to 1 200 degrees Celsius. Carbon emissions from the concrete industry have been measured and shown that if concrete were its own country, it would be the third-highest producer of carbon emissions behind only China and the United States, so it would be China, the United States and then concrete as its own country in the global context of emissions. The incredibly important work of the team behind Collicrete is that there is no opportunity at all to fire the furnaces to 1 200 degrees because it is mixed at room temperature. If we think about all the concrete that is produced around the world, if we were able to pivot the production of concrete to be produced at room temperature, what might that do for the future of our environment across the world? Collie and Collicrete are leading the way. I raise this as an example of some of the amazing opportunities and innovation that is possible when forced to look for alternatives to traditional industries in our region.

I have many conversations with the member for Warren–Blackwood about what sorts of opportunities we have available in Collie. She and I speak very closely about the sorts of things that may also work in her community. It is a wonderful opportunity to support each other as new members of Parliament, but also to support our communities because our communities border each other. Just like the member for Roe, who I realise is not in the chamber at the moment, where our electorates overlap it is important that we have a shared understanding of the issues in our communities. I am grateful to the member for Warren–Blackwood for being able to work with her so positively in this area.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.