

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — MARGARET RIVER

**888. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Forestry:**

I refer to Forest Products Commission pine plantations to the north and east of the Margaret River town site, large parts of which are reaching the end of a 30-year cycle and are planned to be logged over coming years.

- (1) Given changing climatic conditions and the proximity of the town, can the minister give assurances that replanting activity will not occur on those sites?
- (2) If no assurance is forthcoming, what measures will the FPC take this season to ensure that its activities do not contribute to the already high risk of fire escaping from the plantations and impact on the nearby towns?
- (3) What specific resources, human and otherwise, has and will the FPC be allocating to those sites over the forthcoming season and does that include the use of fire retardant?

**Hon COL HOLT replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No.
- (2) The Forest Products Commission has prepared its plantation management plans with careful consideration of the fire risk resulting in the inclusion of community protection fire buffer strips. These plans have been supported by the Shire of Augusta–Margaret River.
- (3) The Department of Parks and Wildlife is responsible for fire management across state forest areas, including these plantations, and determines the fire suppression tools used. The FPC assists Parks and Wildlife by providing funds for prescribed burning and other pre-suppression activities, and by making its staff available for wildfire suppression as required. The FPC also undertakes all work in preparing and maintaining fire breaks.