

NANNUP TIMBER PROCESSING MILL

459. Hon COLIN HOLT to the Leader of the House:

I had intended to direct my question without notice to the Minister for Regional Development but I will direct it to the Leader of the House because she is a senior member of the government. I understand that there may be limitations in giving an answer. I ask this question in the interests of the community and to encourage a rapid response from the government.

Rumours are circulating around the south west that the Nannup Timber Processing mill will close, citing challenges with increased power charges, increased logging costs and increased transport costs. This will have a major negative impact on employment, families and the whole Nannup community.

- (1) Is the Leader of the House or the government aware of the potential closure?
- (2) Is the Leader of the House or the government concerned about the potential job losses?
- (3) If the closure is confirmed, will the government immediately put in place actions to address job losses and to support the Nannup community?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

- (1)–(3) I am somewhat limited in how I can answer the member's question. I have seen Twitter, which is reporting various things about Nannup. That is the extent of my knowledge about the question the member has asked. However, if the reports are true and there are to be job losses, then we will be very concerned about the impact that will have on not just those who are immediately affected and their families, but also, of course, the community. I am sure, in the same way that the government has responded to other announcements, that the Premier will put steps in place to provide immediate support and investigate what else the state government might be able to do to either have the decision reconsidered or ameliorate its effects on families and the community.