

NANNUP TIMBER PROCESSING MILL — CLOSURE

490. Hon COLIN HOLT to the minister representing the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the imminent closure of the Nannup Timber Processing mill.

- (1) When will the minister travel to Nannup to meet with the employees and community?
- (2) Will the minister commit funding to support employees to be retrained?
- (3) Will the minister commit to providing support to local businesses impacted by the closure?
- (4) Will the minister be establishing a taskforce; and, if yes, please provide details of the taskforce?
- (5) What support will the minister provide for the ongoing operations of Nannup Timber Processing?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The first part of this answer is based on information provided by the Minister for Forestry.

- (1)–(5) The Minister for Forestry advises that he will meet with representatives from the Nannup Timber Processing mill tomorrow to understand the reasons behind the decision to close the green mill and how the government may be able to provide assistance. Jobs are the number one priority for this government and we are committed to working with industry, the workforce and the community to ensure a strong and sustainable timber processing industry in WA. As the Minister for Regional Development, I add that I have spoken with the shire president, Tony Dean, and I have committed to travel to Nannup within the next two weeks to see what broader approach we might take, as long as I do not offend Hon Martin Aldridge by being absent. I will work around that.

Point of Order

Hon DONNA FARAGHER: Madam President, I wanted to wait until the minister answered the question, but I wonder whether it is at all possible that the ruling that you gave or the advice that you provided yesterday at the end of question time could be circulated to members and ministers, perhaps before the close of business today, so that they are aware that when they are answering a question, they are answering it as the minister, not as a minister representing a minister in the other place.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: Madam President, I read your ruling in some detail today; and, indeed, that guided the framing of my answer to the question. You might note that I said that the first part of the answer was based on information provided to me by the Minister for Fisheries. I then went on to add, because it was my own answer, as Madam President has made clear, that in my role as Minister for Regional Development I was taking additional steps.

The PRESIDENT: Before members get too excited, I will ensure that that statement is distributed to everyone in the chamber before the end of the day.