

GREENBUSHES TIMBER MILL — TIMBER INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

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

I refer to the advertisement posted on the Gumtree website on 18 July 2016, entitled “Backpackers Wanted for Timber Mill—Greenbushes”.

- (1) Under the previous government’s \$123 million timber industry assistance package, what funding or other resourcing was made available to the owners of the Greenbushes Timber Mill to facilitate local job creation and upgrade the mill?
- (2) What conditions for creating jobs in the local area did that funding place on the owners of the Greenbushes Timber Mill?
- (3) Did these conditions include any targets for local employment numbers; and, if so are these targets being met?
- (4) Does the state government support the Greenbushes Timber Mill’s decision to specifically target backpackers instead of calling for able, local applicants?
- (5) What policies are in place to maintain and grow local employment in the timber industry?

**Hon COL HOLT replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) These questions should be referred to the Minister for Commerce.
- (4) Many industries, including the timber industry, may on occasions require short-term workers to supplement their workforce.
- (5) All production contracts for high-value native forest sawlogs require local processing of logs.