

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — WORKS APPROVALS

830. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the purchase of property by the Forest Products Commission and to section 2 of the Public Works Act 1902, which stated that “public work” and “work” included “the procuring from land (other than Crown lands and public reserves) of timber”.

- (1) Does the FPC require a works approval to establish a plantation for timber production?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Is the government attempting to disempower local governments in order to try to meet its own softwood production targets?
- (4) If no to (3), how are local governments empowered to manage FPC plantations in their jurisdictions?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) Following years of inaction and a lack of investment under the previous Liberal–National government, the Cook Labor government is acting and investing in the future of the state’s softwood estate. The Forest Products Commission does not require works approvals under the operation of section 6(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2005. The Forest Products Commission has consulted, and will continue to consult, with shires regarding new plantations.