

FORESTRY — FALLOW AREAS

**987. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the Conservation and Parks Commission's *End-of-term review of performance of the forest management plan 2014–2023*, and to the statement on page 67 that “consideration will be given to re-establishing plantation areas, within areas of state forest that are currently fallow”.

- (1) What is the total area of state forest that is currently deemed fallow?
- (2) How long has each area that has been deemed fallow been so categorised?
- (3) What is the rationale for letting each identified area of state forest lie fallow, in light of the critical shortage of pine for house construction in WA?
- (4) Why has the Conservation and Parks Commission undertaken to consider re-establishing these plantations, rather than immediately getting on with it?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Environment.

- (1) The total area of state forest and timber reserves that is currently deemed fallow is 19 030 hectares, which includes 17 140 hectares on the Gnangara mound—the Pinjar, Gnangara and Yanchep plantations—that is no longer available for pine plantation.
- (2) I table the information.

[See paper [1745](#).]

- (3)–(4) A large portion of the fallow area is on the Gnangara mound, where the priority land management objective is groundwater recharge. The Forest Products Commission has advised that it is standard practice in other areas to re-establish plantations within 12 months in most cases.