

NATIVE FOREST — ECOLOGICAL THINNING

486. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the uncertainty for timber contractors around future ecological thinning practices as a result of the McGowan government's closure of the native logging industry.

- (1) Has the Forest Products Commission undertaken trials of ecological thinning to inform the next forest management plan?
- (2) If trials have been conducted, what did those trials indicate about the volumes of timber to be produced by ecological thinning?
- (3) Will industry be informed of calculations to determine ecological thinning volumes before the forest management plan is released?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Volume varies by forest type, machinery used and the silvicultural prescription applied.
- (3) Under the *Forest management plan 2024–33*, the driver for ecological thinning will be forest health, not the production of particular volumes of timber.