

NATIVE FOREST — LOGGING — TRANSITION PACKAGE

1321. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's quote on page 4 of today's copy of the *Collie River Valley Bulletin* saying that "everyone loves free money" while spruiking his cash splash in Collie, and witnessed by the Minister for Regional Development.

- (1) While the Premier is splashing around free money, will he provide more to the timber industry businesses that his government's policies have brought to their knees?
- (2) Does this free money come from and therefore belong to Western Australian taxpayers?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I have three questions on the same theme, honourable member. They are equally hilarious.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: At least it's not on PFAS.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Yes.

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

- (1)–(2) The McGowan government has allocated \$80 million for a just transition plan to assist workers, businesses and communities linked to forestry transition to new industries when native forest logging ends in 2024. This includes \$19.3 million for workforce transition programs to provide financial support to native forestry workers and help them secure new employment; \$26.9 million for business transition programs to provide financial support to businesses to pivot, diversify or close once protections for native forests increase; and \$30 million for industry and community development programs to assist small businesses in the native forest region to grow, diversify or attract new industries and stimulate regional economies. In addition, \$350 million has been allocated to expand WA's softwood timber plantations, creating and supporting sustainable jobs in the south west.