

NATIVE FOREST — LOGGING — TRANSITION PACKAGE

1213. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the minister representing the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the Western Australian government's \$80 million Just Transition Plan for the timber industry to provide support to native forestry workers and businesses, and to the 28 October 2022 closure date for applications for forestry businesses.

- (1) As at 14 November, what was the balance of the \$80 million Just Transition Plan?
- (2) What is the current total level of funding for the Collie transition package, and how does this compare with the \$80 million for the timber industry?
- (3) Does the government's disparity in support reflect the voting patterns in Collie versus the timber industry?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The Minister for Forestry has provided the following information.

- (1) The \$80 million native forestry transition plan includes \$19.3 million towards the workforce transition plan, \$26.9 million for the business transition plan and \$30 million for the industry and community development programs. As at 14 November 2022, 61 workers had been paid under the workforce transition program, totalling \$1 629 300. As at 11 November, 24 businesses had been approved to receive a business transition program payment and had been sent letters of offer totalling \$21 616 960. The first of the industry community development programs, the small business development and diversification program, has opened and will close on 31 January 2023.
- (2) This question should be referred to the Minister for Regional Development.
- (3) In addition to the \$80 million native forestry transition plan, the state government has also committed \$350 million to grow plantation forestry.