

NATIVE FOREST — LOGGING — TRANSITION PACKAGE

1108. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the minister representing Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the government's announcement of 8 September 2021 on the ending of most native timber harvesting in Western Australia and the wholly inadequate \$50 million compensation package announced for the hardwood industry.

- (1) How much of the \$50 million will be directed to businesses impacted by the government's changes?
- (2) Will Parkside Timber, which has invested heavily in the industry, as trumpeted by the Minister for Forestry's media release of 3 December 2019, be compensated in part or in full; and, if not, why not?
- (3) How much of the \$50 million package will be paid directly to employees?
- (4) How will businesses forced to exit the industry be compensated?
- (5) How was the original figure of \$50 million for the compensation package arrived at, and will the government increase it to a credible amount?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

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

- (1)–(4) The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation is working with the Native Forestry Transition Group members to develop a just transition plan, including support programs for workforce and businesses to transition out of the native forest industry. This plan will provide support to affected workers and businesses, drive further diversification of local economies and assist in identifying and securing sustainable job opportunities. The development of support programs is underway and will be released at the completion of the just transition plan.
- (5) The government has allocated \$50 million for the just transition plan and is committed to supporting workers, businesses and communities through this transition.