

NATIVE FOREST — ECOLOGICAL THINNING

1084. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the Forest Product Commission's half-yearly report that indicates that the ecological thinning trials were almost complete.

- (1) Are those trials complete and when will the results be published?
- (2) If the trials are not complete, why not?
- (3) Has the FPC and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions determined when ecological thinning will commence under the new forest management plan; if so, when will that be; and, if not, why not?
- (4) Has the FPC prepared any estimates of likely timber yields from ecological thinning; if so, will these be published; and, if not, why not?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

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

- (1)–(4) The Cook government's historic decision to end native forest logging under the next forest management plan will move from practices that are based on commercial timber production to ecological thinning based on forest health outcomes. Ecological thinning will be implemented under an adaptive management approach and silvicultural prescriptions will evolve over the first few years of the new FMP; the trials will be ongoing. The Forest Products Commission is preparing to start ecological thinning when the new FMP commences, and timber yields from thinning activities will depend on a range of factors.