

FORESTRY — SOFTWOOD PLANTATIONS

1599. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to comments from the Minister that the Government’s \$350 million spend on softwood plantations “is not replacing agriculture, it is replacing some of the previously harvested plantation areas”, and I ask:

- (a) can the Minister please confirm whether any land which has been used as agricultural land has been purchased as part of the \$350 million program since it was announced; and
- (b) if yes to (a), will the Minister please provide the postcode, total hectares and the year most recently used as agricultural land, for each purchase?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

- (a)–(b) Following years of in-action and lack of investment under the previous Liberal–National Government, the Cook Labor Government is acting and investing in the future of the State’s softwood estate.

The Forest Products Commission (FPC) does not have detailed historical land use records for land acquired under the Softwood Plantation Investment Program. To date, the FPC has acquired 15 properties comprising 4,687 hectares. Of these, as far as the FPC is aware, only one property (539 hectares) has not previously been used for plantation purposes.