

FORESTRY — SAWLOG DELIVERY DEEDS OF AGREEMENT

920. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the deed of agreement signed by sawmills and harvest and haulage contractors that provides that the business payment may be used to support the recipient of the payment to transition. I also refer to the definition of “transition”, which specifically recognises that the recipient of the payment may elect to keep their production contract on foot in parallel to either transitioning or exiting the industry.

- (1) On what basis does the minister allege that the deed of agreement removed contractual obligations for sawlog deliveries, as reported in the media?
- (2) Did the minister obtain written consent from the other parties, being each and every sawmill payment recipient, before making this disclosure?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Following the historic decision to end native forest logging, the Cook Labor government committed to an \$80 million native forest transition plan that included industry restructure payments of more than \$22 million to 24 individual businesses, including sawmills. All statements I have provided to the media are factually correct.
- (2) No confidential information has been disclosed.