

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — SAWLOGS

1663. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the Forest Products Commission (FPC), and I ask:

- (a) is the Minister aware that the FPC has indicated it will not supply sawlogs to customers with contracts who have received transition payments;
- (b) how many sawmillers are likely to survive without timber supplies until the Forest Management Plan (FMP) makes wood available;
- (c) what does the Government plan to do with the sawlog timber if there are no sawmillers left to use it;
- (d) if the scenario in , occurs, will the Government allow sawlogs to be exported; and
- (e) why is the FPC placing sawlogs in firewood stockpiles rather than supplying them to sawmillers with contracts?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

- (a)–(e) Following the historic decision to end native forest logging, the Cook Labor government committed to an \$80 million native forest transition plan, negotiated with industry, community and workers that included industry restructure payments of more than \$22 million to 24 individual businesses, including sawmills. The Forest Products Commission has always focused and will continue to focus deliveries from the available resource based on its contractual obligations.

The next Forest Management Plan (FMP) will move from practices that are based on commercial timber production to ecological thinning based on forest health outcomes.

To suggest that sawlogs are being used for firewood is offensive to the many staff and contractors involved in forestry and is simply untrue.