

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — FIREWOOD SUPPLY

38. Hon JAMES HAYWARD to the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to firewood supplies in Western Australia.

- (1) How many Western Australians are estimated to rely on firewood for their winter heating?
- (2) What is the average cost of a tonne of firewood in the south west region?
- (3) Will the decision to decimate the native forestry industry affect firewood supply and prices; and, if so, what impacts are anticipated?
- (4) Has the minister been briefed about the risk of increased illegal firewood collection by the public if licensed supplies are reduced?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

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

- (1) The Forest Products Commission has firewood contracts for approximately 80 000 tonnes of firewood this calendar year.
- (2) The cost of a tonne of firewood is a commercial decision made by each firewood wholesale business, and it varies across the year.
- (3) The government's decision to protect our native forests will not affect the availability of firewood to the community in the future.
- (4) No.