

NATIVE FOREST — LOGGING — TRANSITION PACKAGE

1253. Hon LOUISE KINGSTON to the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the native forest logging ban and sawmills that have accepted a modest sum of money to help them transition to a new environment from 1 January 2024, and which have been required to sign deeds of agreement.

- (1) Why were the affected sawmillers verbally advised by FPC management in early August this year that they would not be supplied with any more sawlog for the remaining term of their contracts?
- (2) Why have these sawmillers not been advised in writing of the reasons?
- (3) Why has FPC instructed its harvesting contractors to bypass sawlog products in its planned and tree-marked coupes?
- (4) Why were these unprecedented changes made by FPC?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

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

- (1)–(4) 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.