

FORESTRY — SOFTWOOD PLANTATIONS

902. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Conservation and Parks Commission's *End-of-term review of performance of the forest management plan 2014–2023* and the statement on page 59 that the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions will —

... continue to work with the FPC and other agencies to secure additional plantation areas consistent with the *Softwood Industry Strategy for Western Australia* ... and the 2021 announcement to invest \$350 million to expand Western Australia's softwood plantation timber industry ...

- (1) How much land has the Conservation and Parks Commission purchased for the purpose of state forest and/or timber reserves for the establishment of plantations since 2016?
- (2) As the Forest Products Commission now has the legal authority to purchase, sell and deal with land, will the government transfer all land held by the Conservation and Parks Commission currently used for plantations to the Forest Products Commission?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable Leader of the Opposition for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Minister for Environment.

- (1) The Conservation and Parks Commission has not purchased land for the purpose of state forest and/or timber reserves for the establishment of plantations since 2016.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Conservation and Land Management Act 1984, the *Forest management plan 2014–2023* and working arrangements between the then Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Forest Products Commission on the management of native forests and plantations provide for the ongoing management of public plantations.