

FORESTRY — NATIVE FORESTRY TRANSITION PLAN

1709. Hon Steve Martin to the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to the native forestry transition plan, and I ask:

- (a) how many workers have lost their job as a result of the government's decision to ban native hardwood harvesting;
- (b) how many workers have applied for payment as part of the support packages announced by the Government;
- (c) how many workers have received payment as part of the support packages:
 - (i) what is the total amount paid out as of today;
- (d) has the transition group identified new employment opportunities for workers in the south west:
 - (i) if so, what are they; and
 - (ii) how many people are expected to be employed in each of those;
- (e) how much has been spent as part of the Business Transition Programs since announced in 2021:
 - (i) will the Minister please provide a list of recipients, including the amount received; and
- (f) how much has been spent as part of the Industry and Community Development Programs since announced in 2021:
 - (i) will the Minister please provide a list of recipients including the amount received?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

As at 23 October 2023, 229 workers have applied for support under the Workforce Transition Program.

- (b) See (a) above.
- (c) As at 23 October 2023, 199 workers have received a payment under the Workforce Transition Program with a further 30 payments to be processed in the coming weeks.
 - (i) As at 23 October 2023, a total of \$6,394,390.39 has been paid under the Workforce Transition Program.
- (d) JTSI's NFT Team join representatives from South Regional TAFE, Jobs and Skills Centre, Chamber of Minerals and Energy, and Community Resource Centres for a monthly meeting led by Workforce Australia to discuss employment opportunities and support available to impacted workers.
 - (i) Employment opportunities have been identified in a range of sectors including mining, agriculture, retail, trades and healthcare.
 - (ii) The number expected to be employed in each sector cannot be estimated, as the roles in each sector vary along with the skill-sets of the displaced workers. The expectation is that through the support offered across a range of agencies, all displaced forestry workers will be supported to identify and apply for employment opportunities.
- (e) As at 23 October 2023 a total of \$24,591,904.42 has been paid under the Business Transition Program.
 - (i) Details of the recipients and individual amounts received under the Business Transition Program are confidential for personal and commercial-in-confidence reasons. I refer the Member to my answer to Question On Notice No. 1124 asked in the Legislative Council on 22 November 2022 for the methodology of how each payment was calculated.
- (f) As at 23 October 2023, 48 separate projects have been approved for funding under the various Industry and Community Development Grant programs, with \$6,562,244 paid.
 - (i) [See tabled paper no 2820.]