

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO 2022-23 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING – QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Forest Products Commission

Hon Steve Martin MLC asked:

B1)

- a. I will go to a question about the new softwood plantation plantings. The Minister mentioned that 6,000 hectares had been planted during this term of government. What is the annual harvest of the softwood estate in Western Australia?
- b. How many hectares burnt or otherwise lost in this term of Government?

Answer:

B1)

The 6,000 hectares quoted in the question refers to the establishment of new plantations which is in addition to the replanting of existing areas under plantation.

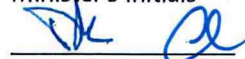
a.

Area of plantation harvested by year (broken into clearfell and thin) since the McGowan Government came to office (March 2017).			
Year	ClearFell (ha)	Thinning (ha)	Grand Total (ha)
2017 (March+)	2,050	3,235	5,285
2018	2,312	4,234	6,547
2019	3,107	2,551	5,658
2020	3,358	2,907	6,264
2021	2,907	2,148	5,055
2022	1,048	623	1,671
Grand Total (ha)	14,782	15,698	30,480

b.

Area of plantation either burnt or otherwise lost each year since the McGowan Government came to office (March 2017).			
Year	Drought (ha)	Fire (ha)	Grand Total (ha)
2017 (March+)		72	72
2018	99	152	251
2019		2,181	2,181
2021		1,578	1,578
2022		97	97
Grand Total (ha)	99	4,080	4,179

Minister's initials



Hon Dr Steve Thomas MLC asked:

B2) Minister, I take you to page 296 of budget paper No 2, volume 1. The top of the page is native forest impacts and points 1 and 2 are the decision and then what the new management plan will be based on. It is on ecological thinnings and harvesting for improved mining operations. My understanding is there are several hundred hectares harvested for mining operations at the moment per annum. Can you just give us a number and the amount of timber in terms of both sawlog and the rest—thinnings, for example—that are taken from those mining operations on average per year? By supplementary information if needs be.

**Answer:**

B2) On an annual basis

Year	Jarrah Sawlog (m3)	Jarrah Residue (m3)	Area salvaged (ha)
2017	8,552	56,935	974
2018	8,522	71,605	895
2019	5,646	74,007	1,275
2020	10,268	80,404	871

Hon James Hayward MLC asked:

B3) I have a quick question on firewood. Obviously, the cost of living is going up and people in the south west do not have access to natural gas, particularly in the lower south west areas, and accessing firewood is very important as part of their heating and overall costs. Are you confident there will be enough firewood to maintain a supply that is affordable for people who need to heat their families and houses?

**Answer:**

B3)

1. The below table represents the Forest Products Commission's deliveries of firewood timber grade. Other grades of timber not deemed 'firewood' can contain residue material that could be used for firewood. Firewood is delivered by the tonne. Calendar year sales are as follows:

	Calendar Years	Total (Tonnes)
1.	2018	71,550
2.	2019	76,740
3.	2020	91,815
4.	2021	86,320

Minister's initials

