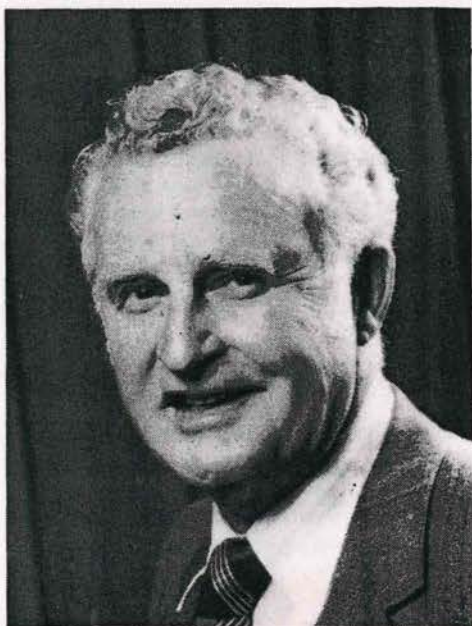


1982  
Western Australia

# STATE FORESTS: POLICY

Forests Department Policies  
General Working Plan  
Results of Implementing General Working Plan  
Need for Alternative Industries to Create Job Opportunities  
Multiple Use of Forests  
Depressed Plight of WA Timber Industry  
Policy and Attitude of Australian Labor Party



## A SPEECH

by

**HON. DAVID EVANS, B.A., M.L.A.,**  
(Member for Warren)

in the

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

on

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## A Speech by

**THE HON. DAVID EVANS, B.A., M.L.A.**

### INTRODUCTION

**MR EVANS** (Warren) [10.25 p.m.]: This motion gives me the opportunity, firstly, to review the management policies of the Forests Department which, essentially, are to ensure that the multiplicity of our hardwood forest resources are protected in perpetuity and, secondly, to examine the problems which currently confront this very depressed Western Australian industry both in the short and long term. This opportunity is appreciated by the Opposition, particularly by me.

Let me refer firstly to the wording of the motion moved in this House. Not only is its terminology completely unclear in relation to management concepts, but also there appears to be a total lack of understanding on the part of the member for Mundaring of what the term "forest management" means.

**Mr Tonkin:** He would not have a clue; he is just a Government hack.

**Mr EVANS:** Even the introductory paragraph of the motion is clouded in uncertainty and lacking in intention. I invite members to read the first paragraph for themselves, and to note its lack of definition. The motion also is restricted in its view.

**Mr Sibson:** Let us talk about the motion.

**Mr EVANS:** The member for Bunbury should go back to sleep.

Paragraph 1 of the motion states—

... this House:

1. Expresses support for the Government's ongoing Forestry policies designed to maintain and, where, possible, expand job opportunities through:

- (a) maintaining the forest estate on a safe-cut basis;

In referring to maintaining forests on a safe-cut basis, presumably the member for Mundaring is endeavouring to convey to the House the concept of a sustained yield, which, of course, involves the removal of wood from the forest at a rate which the annual growth increment can sustain in perpetuity.

The term has a very specific, technical meaning to the forestry world and the forestry officers draw from it the understanding and nuances which come from a deep appreciation of what actually is a forest. The term needs to be understood so that the expression "overcutting" also can be fully appreciated; that is a matter which will be dealt with in the Forests Department general working plan.

The conflict which arises due to the honourable member's lack of understanding of the term "safe cut" makes this first part of the motion meaningless. Specifically, the conflict arises where the motion seeks support for forestry policies designed to maintain and, possibly, expand job opportunities while maintaining the forest estate on a safe-cut basis while in paragraph 2, the motion asks that the House—

2. Endorses the general principles enunciated in the General Working Plan No. 87 of 1982 for State Forest Management.

### PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL WORKING PLAN

Apparently, the member for Mundaring has not read the general working plan or, if he has read it, he has not understood it, otherwise he would not have placed the two statements in juxtaposition. The continued implementation of the Government's forest policies must result in a decrease in job opportunities as a result of the management programme being put into effect. So, let us not have this fraud of claiming the working plan would maintain and expand job opportunities. The member for Mundaring cannot have it both ways.

Let us have a closer look at this situation because, among other things, it is the general working plan which progressively decreases the permissible intake of sawlogs into the hardwood mills of the south-west. That, in turn, will reduce the number of jobs available in the timber industry. How can the member for Mundaring talk about maintaining jobs, on the one hand, and reducing the level of sawlogs, on the other, unless, in some way, a job-creating policy can be devised? He made no mention of that.

I would like to quantify the points I have made with regard to job opportunities. We are still dealing with the general working plan; and as members know, a general working plan is established for five years as the policy which the Forests Department will adopt in the management of State forests. What do we find in the current plan and the one prior to it?

Part of the general working plan strategy is a reduction in the permissible intake of sawlogs to ensure that the over-cut is reduced to a level at which it may be cut in perpetuity. General working plan No. 86 was the one that concluded in 1982; and it was operative for the five years prior to that. It provided for a reduced overall GP sawlog intake from 1 080 000 m<sup>3</sup> in 1975 to 823 000 m<sup>3</sup> in 1981—a decrease of 24 per cent and as a result some 16 sawmills ceased to operate. That is the first point.

### RESULTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE GENERAL WORKING PLAN

General working plan No. 87 of 1982 will reduce general purpose sawlogs, excluding salvage logs, to 762 000 cubic metres. On page 30 of the general working plan, the following appears—

During the next five years the reduction in the allowable cut will result in six small sawmills ceasing operations . . .

Jobs were lost during the currency of general working plan No. 86; and they will be lost during the 1981-1986 period under general working plan No. 87. It is folly for the mover of the motion to say that Forests Department policies are designed to maintain and expand job opportunities; that would make utter nonsense of the first paragraph of his motion.

It is true that we will see an increase in jobs in the softwood industry as the hardwood industry declines, but it certainly will not offset the job losses as the softwood industry is far less labour intensive. Furthermore, the jobs will be in different localities, with consequential dislocation to the industry.

I would like to take this point a little further and indicate the effects of reduced cutting levels. This can be best appreciated by looking at the proposed levels of cutting in the karri forest as outlined in the document to which the mover of the motion referred, but which he obviously did not understand. I refer to the report entitled "Conservation of the Karri Forest" by two of the best research officers in the department,

Bradshaw and Lush. They indicate the scaling down of the general purpose karri logs of this order—

\*1977—280 000 m<sup>3</sup> \*1982—190 000 m<sup>3</sup>

\*1988—132 000 m<sup>3</sup> \*2016—107 000 m<sup>3</sup>

\*2024—100 000 m<sup>3</sup> until 2068 when 300 000 m<sup>3</sup> will be available at a 100 year rotation.

As an alternative, the trees could be left for 300 years. That would not be our decision; someone else will have to make it in the year 2068. The point is that the opportunity will be there for future generations to take up the option.

At the same time, the level of 50 000 cubic metres will be maintained in mature sawlogs; and the balance will come from the other three classifications of timber to be grown.

In dealing with percentages, between 1977 and 1982 the reduction was from 280 000 to 190 000 cubic metres, a reduction of 33 per cent. Between 1982 and 1988, the reduction will be from 190 000 to 132 000 cubic metres or 31 per cent. That means that in the period 1977-1988, the reduction will be from 280 000 to 130 000 cubic metres per annum, or 53 per cent. So, there will be a decrease of over 50 per cent of sawlogs in the karri forest in this decade. The impact of that will not be insignificant.

### RESULTS OF CUTBACK IN INTAKE OF MILLS

Dealing with the Manjimup region only, the number of people employed directly in timber production in 1981 was 1 471; in 1988, it will be 1 148, a decrease of 323. We should bear in mind that in the previous five years, during which time 17 mills were closed, several hundred people lost jobs. The effect on the region through the loss of jobs as the result of a decrease in the over-cut in the Manjimup region will be a loss in wages. In 1981 a total of \$18.9 million in wages was paid in the timber industry. In 1988, that amount will fall to \$14.7 million, a decrease of \$4.2 million. It follows that in the wood products industry, the amount will likewise diminish from \$57.8 million to \$45.1 million in the same period, a drop of \$12.7 million.

The mover of the motion went to great lengths to show the flow-on effect of jobs lost in direct timber production. He enunciated this point at great length. Of course, this reduction and its effect will be felt by the commercial businesses and in the social life of the entire region; and it will flow beyond the borders of the region, with the multiplier effects to which reference was made.



Nowhere in the motion is there any recognition of the loss of hundreds of jobs in the past five years, or the expected loss of jobs in the next five years. Nowhere in the motion is there any suggestion of how the redundancies can and should be offset.

Mrs Craig: Are you saying you believe that over-cutting should continue?

Mr EVANS: I am saying it should not; and I will go on, if the Minister will allow me, to espouse the principles and the concepts of the general working plan that the Forests Department has brought down, and which her Government has adopted. Let us get it clear, there has to be a reduction of this kind. However, it must be on a more properly organised basis, and the Minister's Government did not do a thing about it in the last five years. It is not doing anything now about the downturn in the timber industry; nor is it likely to do anything in the next five years. Let us be clear about that.

#### NEED TO PROVIDE OTHER INDUSTRY TO OFFSET JOB LOSSES

If the present policy is followed, no job in the industry is safe. In previous years, the companies have done very well in accommodating redundancy, largely by natural wastage. However, the companies can be expected to do only a certain amount. They are not in the position to assist people who have left their jobs.

I must pay tribute to the companies in the timber industry. They have coped well; but they have done it without any support from the Government, and without any recognition of what is happening. That is the tragedy.

Mr Tonkin: Hear, hear!

Mr EVANS: The mover of the motion pontificated about his concern for the loss of jobs in the industry. He has no concern for the loss of jobs in the timber industry.

Mr Tonkin: Dead right!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr EVANS: His motives do not involve concern for the people in the industry.

As the mover of the motion made great play of the Australian Labor Party's policy, perhaps I should refer to what it says, especially the parts to which he very carefully omitted to refer. I will quote those parts of the ALP policy that are relevant to forest management and the timber industry, to demonstrate how advanced is the ALP in this field.

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#### ALP POLICY: ORDERLY REDUCTION

In relation to over-cutting—this will answer the Minister—I quote directly from page 35—

Labor is committed to the orderly cessation of the practice of overcutting in the State's native forests—

Mrs Craig: That is exactly what we are doing.

Mr EVANS: That is why I am supporting it. The policy continues—

—to minimise the inevitable disruption to the industry and so that industry can be maintained in perpetuity.

This is basic to what is contained in the general working plan.

Mr Tonkin: Hear, hear! It is congruent with the working plan.

Mr EVANS: When the redundancy became apparent, there was no effort on the part of those opposite to do anything about it.

Mr Herzfeld: What about the area of forests you want to take out? That is not in the plan.

Mr EVANS: I did the mover of the motion the courtesy of hearing him in silence. He knows so little about forest management that it would not hurt him to listen while I give him the facts.

Mr Pearce: He should know something about trees. His head is made of the same material.

Mr EVANS: Item 88 is as follows—

... restrict cutting in State Forests to a sustained yield level and rationalise the uses to which our useful and beautiful hardwoods are put.

And further—

A Labor Government will ensure that the level of extraction for sawmilling is reduced. The aim of this will be to eliminate overcutting to ensure a minimum cutting rotation of 100 years, and to provide adequate forest reservations.

Mr Herzfeld: That is what is already happening.

Mrs Craig: Exactly. He has just slated both working plans.

Mr EVANS: Rot! I will quote also—

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask that the general level of noise in the Chamber be reduced. I suggest also to the Minister for Local Government that if she wants to interject on the member, particularly if he is in the mood to respond to the interjections, she should make her interjections at such a level that I at least can hear them, or at least the *Hansard* reporter can hear them. I am

sure it is making the *Hansard* reporter's job fairly difficult if the member for Warren is responding to interjections that he cannot hear.

Mr EVANS: On the basis of the general working plan contained in the report "Conservation of the Karri Forest" to which I have referred already, that is compatible with the State platform of the Australian Labor Party. In many areas, it is consistent. Page 37 deals with employment in the forest area as follows—

Labor re-affirms its commitment to the welfare of the people of the South West. It believes that this forestry policy represents the best interests of the employees of forest based industries.

It goes on to say—

Recognizing that overcutting must stop in the foreseeable future... a Labor Government will:

phase out overcutting in order to ensure that there will not be catastrophic reduction in the sawmilling industry, thereby averting large-scale dislocation.

The only other point of policy to which I should refer is on page 105 and it reads—

... examine the short and long term employment potential of the forest based industries. Proper planning will seek to minimise dislocation of local communities and eliminate individual hardship...

That is one aspect with which the member for Mundaring did not deal in any way at all, and I will touch on a few more.

### MULTIPLE USE OF FORESTS

The general principles of working plan No. 87 need to be understood and perhaps read, particularly by the member for Mundaring. As I have said, the principles of the working plan provide for an ongoing reduction of cutting. The plan provides also for the concept of multiple use of forests and the exclusion from wood production of reserves, national parks, and management priority areas, which will enable the objectives of multiple use management to be achieved. Again, not a whisper or indication of that in the motion moved by the member for Mundaring.

On the matter of reserves, under general working plan No. 87 over half of existing mature virgin karri forest is included in some form of reserve. These include roads, stream and forest reserves, national parks, and management priority

areas. We did not hear about them although they may have been implicit in the section dealing with the general working plan.

Paragraph 35 of the ALP platform reveals a commitment to multiple use of forests and the need to reserve areas to achieve these objectives, something that is not even remotely touched on by the member who moved this motion. That makes his motion incompatible with the concept of multiple use management.

The multiple use concept of forest management began to crystalise as an actual policy about 1972; probably more than anything else it was a result of the compilation of the environmental impact statement presented to the Federal Government as a prerequisite to obtaining a wood chip licence in WA. It directed a great deal of serious thinking to the total land use concept that has been referred to at State conferences of the ALP. In all events the multiple use concept has been recognised as the most appropriate and proper method of management of the forests in Western Australia.

The past two general working plans brought down by the Forests Department and presented for acceptance by both Houses of Parliament have seen the multiple use management plans adopted. Their concepts were very well explained in the publication *Forest Focus* No. 18, which is something again that particularly some members should make a point of reading.

The State platform of the Australian Labor Party recognises the total values of forests, and I quote as follows—

... it is essential that integrated forest management which recognises all forest values is practiced.

### CREATION OF RESERVES

To this end provision for social, recreational, aesthetic, scientific, conservational, as well as wood production values are each specified by policy.

It is fitting therefore that the second paragraph of the motion would be acceptable as it is compatible with ALP policy.

As for reserves, although the motion does not make direct reference to them I can assume only that the conditions applying in the general working plan referring to multiplicity of use of the forests indicates that the mover of the motion does accept the principle of forest reserves. I think that is correct, because without reserves the aims and



objectives of the multiple use of forests are just not obtainable.

The member for Mundaring seemed to be obsessed with the aspect of wood production. He reiterated that time and time again. In fact, he referred not just to wood production, but also to production in any other area in which he traversed.

Any acceptable forest management programme must have reserves. Any policy dealing with long-term management of State forests must cater for several uses, and to do that reservations of different types are required.

The final part of the motion refers to the Shannon Basin, which is seen by some as being an opportunity to preserve a river basin in its entirety, complete with an inlet at the mouth. It does not necessarily have to be managed as a wilderness area, but it would have to be managed as a national park *per se*.

The first job I had as a lad 40 years ago was with a working gang in the Forests Department. Part of the job over the four or five months was control burning in the Shannon Basin along the Shannon River itself. It was a very different Shannon Basin in those days, but the reflections of it are still very clear for me.

I can put the Shannon Basin in its proper perspective by saying that, between 1950 and 1970, a major mill operated in the basin and subsequent to that it provided saw logs for several mills that still operate in the region. The area of the Shannon Basin extends over some 59 900 hectares of which 22 300 hectares are karri, 20 900 are jarrah-marri mixed, and 16 700 hectares are flats. It will be seen that 34 per cent of the Shannon Basin is karri and nine per cent of the total is virgin karri forest. Some 60 per cent of the existing karri forest will be included in the D'entrecasteaux National Park. The area reserved under the Forests Department management plan will be in the order of 40 per cent; that is what we are talking about when we discuss the Shannon Basin.

In 1974 the conservation through reserves committee of the Environmental Protection Authority recommended that the bulk of the Shannon Basin should be placed in reserve. With regard to all the factors considered and the alternative areas available—I must admit I prefer the alternatives—the management priority areas which have been set aside have one serious deficiency. I am presuming now that every member of this House would agree with the need for some reserve of forest. At present about 53.6 per cent of the total mature virgin karri is in some form of reservation. That is quite reasonable and I cannot think of any

member who would raise objection to the requirement of reserves for all those additional purposes necessary to ensure the multiple use of our forests.

The management priority areas to which I refer extend in a contiguous strip from the north end of the Shannon Basin through to North Walpole. They are termed in *Forest Focus* No. 18 of 1977 as being the southern recreation and conservation management priority area. The tenure of these management priority areas needs to be given some consideration, because one of their major deficiencies is their level of tenure. At present they are components of State forests and a line drawn on a map with a name designated upon it. This gives them a high degree of security only for the period of the working plan, which is five years. State forests can be changed or excised with the approval of Parliament to a working plan, but at the end of a five-year life the uses or areas of State forests are reserved, so it is a long-term security of these areas of reserves that is absolutely necessary to make them acceptable in the eyes of the community at large.

I was tempted to move an amendment in order that forest reserves might be given permanent national park status, but I feel a more appropriate step could be taken. The deficiency in the lack of status of these reserved areas is something to which no reference has been made in the motion and about which something should have been done. No-one opposite recognises the fact that although the full range of uses of forests must be maintained, a balance must be struck. To ease the mind of the member for Mundaring, I point out to him that at the last ALP State conference, about which he made so much fuss, the following motion was carried unanimously—

#### **GUARANTEE OF LOG SUPPLIES**

Notwithstanding Labors commitment to the creation of National Parks within the Forest Estate a Labor Government will guarantee the resource base of the woodchip and timber industries at the levels projected in the Forests Department Working Plan No. 87 of 1982. Thus guaranteeing no resultant loss of jobs in the timber industry.

This goal is achievable under the management objectives of the working plan and, furthermore, the motion accepted unanimously goes on to say—

#### **HARDWOOD REGENERATION**

Accordingly, a State A.L.P. Government will be committed to intensive treatment of

an area of the degraded hardwood forest of at least 2 000 ha/year to restore its timber production potential. This would include a forest station of alienated farmlands purchased or leased back by agreement with landholders.

This is one method by which jobs can be created. Initially it will be with the nursery and forestry work and later it will be through the wood production and the full management of all that entails.

Hopefully next year a Federal Labor Government will view this project sympathetically and if it was doubled to 4 000 hectares a year, in 10 years that would provide in the order of 55 000 cubic metres a year. When it is borne in mind that the average sized mill uses about 35 000 cubic metres a year, it is realised it represents a substantial contribution to the hardwood economy.

### PLIGHT OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

The position of the timber industry now should not be disregarded and I would be remiss if I allowed to pass an opportunity to make reference to the present conditions. During 1982 major firms involved in wood production have experienced increasing difficulties in the sale of timber and wood chips overseas. Export and local markets have dwindled and decreased. WA Chip and Pulp, the only wood chip operator, has been forced to reduce its exports. Japan is the main export market. The downturn in the paper products industry has led to a reduction in wood chips and this in turn has reduced the number of ships calling at Bunbury, the number of trains carrying wood chips to the port from Manjimup, and the level of activity on the chip markets and also at bush works. The timber mills are going through probably the most stringent period since the great Depression and a number of mills already have been closed because of the fall in timber to which I have alluded. These include such mills as Quinninup, Jarrahwod, the Nannup sleeper mill, and Boyup Brook. The last two are comparatively small.

I already have mentioned that in the past the companies have coped quite well and they are continuing to do so during this period. They have adopted a policy of putting married women off first and other employees then are transferred. The taking of leave has been enforced, but a significant number of retrenchments have taken place. At the Greenbushes mill the men have opted to take a four-day week rather than reduce

the total work force by 20 per cent and that decision reflects credit on the men working at Greenbushes.

I have kept in close contact with the mills, but it is clear they will all have trouble in coping with their own timber supplies. Orders come in on a week-to-week basis and result in the timber stocks steadily increasing. I expressed concern for the immediate future of these mills, but I have every confidence in their long-term future. I acknowledge the measures this Government has announced in relation to the permissible shortfall and in increasing funds to the SHC with relief and interest-free payments.

Mr Blaikie: The railway contractor.

Mr EVANS: Yes, the resleepering of the line to Koolyanobbing. These measures alone will not be sufficient and it is hoped that some stimulation of the private sector will be possible. Government programmes for the advancement of public works, the assistance of private building finance, and, above all, the pressure to be applied to this Government's Federal colleagues in Canberra, are worthwhile because it is from that area that sufficient quantities of finance can be expected, in respect of local governments being forced to cut back works' programmes. Federal funds should be increased and injected into the building and construction industries. The Federal Government is simply an extension of this Government and it is from whence the relief will flow.

### FAILURE OF LIBERAL-COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT

The record of the Liberal-Country Party coalition Government of five years ago in providing job opportunities for employees who were made redundant by the implementation of working plan No. 86 of 1977 when 16 mills closed and some hundreds of men lost jobs has been disastrous when we look at the flow-on effects which are involved.

Yet, the member who moved the motion went on with the great display of concern, and crocodile tears splashed from almost this distance.

Mr P. V. Jones: That sounds good.

Mr EVANS: The member's motion is almost incomprehensible because it states—

Rejects any proposals designed to shrink employment opportunities in the forest industry that cannot be justified in terms of soundly based management and environmental concepts.

If we look at some of the areas that are being planted with softwoods—I suppose the largest and most germane of these would be the Donnybrook sunkland—we find that the situation is that some thousands of acres of indigenous forest have been cleared on which pines are being planted, and therefore this action must be on the basis of some reasoning other than that given by the member who moved it. There is an obvious conflict when he says there should be justification in soundly-based management and environmental concepts, because to bulldoze large areas and plant them with exotic trees cannot be taken as proper management of indigenous forests and environmental protection. There must be another reason for that sort of activity being allowed, so that makes nonsense of paragraph No. 3. There must be other reasons for this and they must include economics and the additional supply of softwood. The member who moved the motion cannot have it both ways.

I am not disputing his reasons for growing pines as they could be right, but it makes the motion look rather silly.

I was taking notes while the member for Mundaring was speaking and he seemed to get away from the need for a balance in forest management. He made no mention of reserves and the vital need to provide for the implementation of the multiple uses to which our hardwood forests should be put. He also was intolerant of anything that had nothing to do with protection. Surely he cannot be proud of the way that the jarrah forests in this State have been treated. He cannot be proud of what the group settlement scheme did to the forests of the south-west. He seems to have reiterated this *ad nauseum*.

Mr Sibson: You know the effect it had on the forest as a whole.

Mr I. F. Taylor: Go back to sleep.

Mr EVANS: That was the tenor of his attitude. In some parts this motion is utter nonsense.

Mr Sibson: Only in your mind. You should have had it at that conference that day.

Mr EVANS: I want to foreshadow a motion of my own which is more worthy of being adopted by this Legislative Assembly.

Mr Parker: Hear, hear!

Mr EVANS: If the House is serious about proper forest management and all it implies it

must accept this amendment. I seek to move an amendment as follows—

#### AMENDMENT TO ACCEPTABLE ALP POLICY

Delete all words after "That" in line 1 with a view to substituting the following passage—

in re-affirming its commitment to the planned development of Western Australia's timber resources in a manner which will not only create the maximum direct and indirect employment opportunities possible, but will ensure perpetuity, this House—

Members will notice that it replaces the original motion's opening paragraph which I described as obscure, unclear, and lacking purpose. It is completely unacceptable. My amendment continues—

1. Asserts that Western Australia's native forests are a unique and valuable asset. They can and should constitute the resource base for the provision of a multiplicity of products and uses for the Western Australian community and visitors on a perpetual basis. Among these are water catchment, timber and other wood based industries, recreation, tourism, scientific and educational purposes, public utility and honey production. The overall predominance of any of these uses, to the detriment of others, is inconsistent with the interests of the public.
2. Endorses the general principles enunciated in the general working plan No. 87 of 1982 for State forest management, and recognises the need to designate areas of Forest as Reserves and National Parks to achieve the objects of multiple use management.

Mr Sibson: Signed "Bartholomaeus"!

Mr EVANS: Are you opposed to reserves, you little man! Is the member opposed or is he not?

Mr Sibson: Of course I am not opposed to it.

Mr I. F. Taylor: Go to sleep.

Mr EVANS: My proposed amendment continues—

3. Guarantees that notwithstanding the creation of reserves and national parks within the forest estate the resource base of the woodchip and timber industries at



the levels projected in the Forests Department's working plan No. 87 of 1982 will be maintained, thus guaranteeing no resultant loss of jobs in the timber industry.

4. Expresses concern at the depressed state of the timber industry in Western Australia and calls upon the Government to immediately initiate measures designed to stimulate home building programmes to capitalise on the huge multiplier effect on the timber and associated industries, both in the short and long term.

Mr Tonkin: Under this Government.

Mr EVANS: My proposed amendment continues—

5. Calls upon the Government, in addition to the planting of exotic pine species to compliment the timber reserves of Western Australia, to accept a commitment to intensively treat an area of de-graded hardwood forest of at least 2 000 ha/year to restore its timber production potential.
6. Urges that the Government develops alternative job opportunities to absorb those workers in the timber industry who will be made redundant as a consequence of the decrease in the permissible intake of sawlogs to timber mills under Forests Department working plan No. 87 takes effect.
7. Requests the WA Government to ascertain from the Federal Government precisely how the fast track provisions of the closer economic relations agreement with New Zealand will prevent the dumping of New Zealand timber in Australia.

That is certainly an important aspect because the economic agreement of the CER with New Zealand could endanger some of the primary industries in this country. Under the agreement there is a track-dumping provision which precludes the dumping of any goods.

While the best intention may be displayed by both Governments, it is certainly not clear that the margins in various fields—for example, the timber industry, the vegetable industry, and the meat industry—will harken to the guidelines that may be spelt out. Already timber is being dumped on the east coast. Quality pine is being landed at

Sydney at less than \$200 per cubic metre. The cost of timber of a comparable grade from Western Australia would be more than double that. What is occurring in the face of competition from New Zealand is that producers at Mt. Gambier in South Australia have been forced to seek sales in Western Australia, again at dump prices. This is the situation that is occurring in regard to the timber industry. It has exacerbated already the shortage of markets.

It is important that something is done along the lines that I intend to move. Each of the seven conditions in my amendment are consistent with the working plan adopted by this Parliament. My amendment is more sensible than the nonsensical motion moved by the member for Mundaring. His motion was not intelligent and any forest scientist would have the greatest difficulty in understanding what he was driving at.

#### *Amendment to Motion*

Mr EVANS: I move an amendment—

Delete all words after "That" in line 1 with a view to substituting the following passage—

in re-affirming its commitment to the planned development of Western Australia's timber resources in a manner which will not only create the maximum direct and indirect employment opportunities possible, but will ensure perpetuity, this House—

1. Asserts that Western Australia's native forests are a unique and valuable asset. They can and should constitute the resource base for the provision of a multiplicity of products and uses for the Western Australian community and visitors on a perpetual basis. Among these are water catchment, timber and other wood based industries, recreation, tourism, scientific and educational purposes, public utility and honey production. The overall predominance of any of these uses, to the detriment of others, is inconsistent with the interests of the public.
2. Endorses the general principles enunciated in the general working plan No. 87 of 1982 for State forest management, and recognises the need to designate areas of forest as

reserves and national parks to achieve the objects of multiple use management.

3. Guarantees that notwithstanding the creation of reserves and national parks within the forest estate the resource base of the woodchip and timber industries at the levels projected in the Forests Department's working plan No. 87 of 1982 will be maintained, thus guaranteeing no resultant loss of jobs in the timber industry.
4. Expresses concern at the depressed state of the timber industry in Western Australia and calls upon the Government to immediately initiate measures designed to stimulate home building programmes to capitalise on the huge multiplier effect on the timber and associated industries, both in the short and long term.
5. Calls upon the Government, in addition to the planting of exotic pine species to compliment the timber reserves of Western Australia, to accept a commitment to intensively

treat an area of de-graded hardwood forest of at least 2000 hectares per year to restore its timber production potential.

6. Urges that the Government develops alternative job opportunities to absorb those workers in the timber industry who will be made redundant as a consequence of the decrease in the permissible intake of sawlogs to timber mills until Forests Department working plan No. 87 takes effect.
7. Requests the WA Government to ascertain from the Federal Government precisely how the fast track provisions of the closer economic relations agreement with New Zealand will prevent the dumping of New Zealand timber in Australia.

I conclude on the note that the disregard of this Government for people in the timber industry is nothing short of lamentable and one can assume only that this disregard will be forthcoming in the future. This matter will be looked at carefully by members of the Labor Party when in Government next year.