FOUR CORNERS: The Expose EXPOSED

CALM's Reply to the

ABC Four Corners Attack

('The Wood for the Trees'), 18 June 1990

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Department of Conservation and Land Management WA

FOUR CORNERS: *The Expose E X P O S E D*

CALM's Reply to the ABC Four Corners Attack ('The Wood for the Trees'), 18 June 1990



Department of Conservation and Land Management WA PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Four Corners: The Expose Exposed

CALM's Reply to the ABC Four Corners Attack ("The Wood for the Trees") 18 June 1990

On 18 June 1990, the ABC Four Corners program attacked the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management's handling of State forests and lands. The attack was demonstrably biased, inaccurate, and misleading. This document is part of CALM's response.

The style and standard of journalism in the program were disturbing. It presented unsupported and incorrect statements by CALM's critics as if they were indisputable facts. It did check these statements, and it did not show not CALM's It even accepted the critics' them. wilder refutations of statements without question, yet cynically subjected CALM's own statements to disbelieving scrutiny. Far from attempting to build an objective picture based on facts, it set CALM up as a whipping-boy for its extremest critics. Incredibly, some of its assertions (see Appendix 7 for examples) were so blatantly. wrong that the sources it named have since publicly denied what Four Corners claimed they said. The program must now be an embarrassment to its makers, to the ABC, and, increasingly, to the profession of journalism itself.

Here is a case of a media program abusing its position of responsibility. Given its nation-wide audience, its wrongful attack must have done untold damage to the joint causes of conservation and land management.

This document picks out 44 points from the program and deals with them one by one. The program is quoted, then compared with the truth. The picture revealed is of a journalist on the hunt for a good story, single-mindedly refusing to be distracted by facts or hamstrung by a sense of fair play.

The transcript of the program appears in the appendices. So does a transcript of the full interview with CALM's executive director, Dr Syd Shea. The comparison is enlightening. Also in the appendices are documents, figures, statements, and other facts the program claimed that CALM dares not reveal. All such material has for long been readily available, and in some cases was offered to the Four Corners team - who refused it.

CALM hopes that this document will help put the record straight - a record which is already impressive. The Department is attempting to balance the needs of conservation with the other needs of people who live in this State. It is possible to hold these two needs in easy balance and harmony, an endeavour which deserves a fair hearing. It is the Department's sincere regret that Four Corners cast aside this most fundamental journalist's privilege: its stewardship of the truth.



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HON MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

FOUR CORNERS PROGRAM, 18 JUNE 1990 - "THE WOOD FOR THE TREES"

As requested by you, I have had the Department complete a detailed analysis of the above program which I attach. I will also be forwarding you a report on the document "A Forest Accord" and a response to the Conservation Council's proposals for a forest inquiry and the restructuring of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

The attached report speaks for itself.

I am concerned about other aspects of the program which have come to light during our analysis. These relate to the timing of events prior to the production and subsequent release of the Four Corners program. You will remember that I commented at the time that we became aware of the Shannon National Park incident that the timing of this mistake was impeccable. There is some evidence to suggest that the publicity surrounding the Shannon incident and the arrival of the Four Corners team was not accidental. I will endeavour to provide further information to you about this at a later stage.

I am very concerned about the impact of the Four Corners program on those members of the community who are not aware of the facts about forest management in Western Australia. I regret that considerable damage has been done to the Government's endeavours to develop a community consensus on forest issues because of this program.

I am pleased to report, however, that the program has had one very positive effect. All members of the Department have responded in the most positive and enthusiastic way despite the vicious attacks on departmental staff in the program. The Department is more united than it has ever been.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and the Department to formally thank you for the vigorous, rapid and articulate support you gave us publicly and in the Parliament. I am sure that you have never doubted the loyalty and support of the Department to the Government's policies on forest management and to yourself personally. I have to advise you that following the last few weeks' events that if you ever are in a position where you have to walk over hot coals there are many people in this Department who would volunteer to go with you.

Ayor Shea

Dr Syd Shea EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

27 June 1990

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CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS INVOLVING CONTACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT BY "FOUR CORNERS"

1. It is understood that prior to Four Corners coming to Western Australia late in May, a researcher with the production team spent two weeks in the State, but made no contact with CALM or the Minister's office during this period.

The ABC has also admitted having had a file in Sydney on CALM for nearly a year. Yet CALM, the major character in the story, was never consulted until 24 May 1990.

There was also a subsequent admission by the Vice President of the Conservation Council of Western Australia, Dr Beth Schultz, that she assisted Four Corners to set up the program.

Dr Schultz stated on the Sattler File (Radio 6PR) on 26 June 1990 that she gave Four Corners the names of people to contact, told them places to go and gave them documents. (See Appendix 24.)

2. CONTACT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR CALM, MR BOB PEARCE

On 23 May Four Corners contacted the office of the Minister for the Environment asking to speak to a member of the Minister's staff. A Four Corners representative said that he did not want to speak to anyone but the specified staff member.

He said that Four Corners did not plan to speak to the Minister.

3. CONTACT WITH CALM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DR SYD SHEA

On 24 May Dr Syd Shea (CALM's Executive Director) received a call from Mark Colvin, presenter of the program, who had arrived in Perth, requesting Dr Shea to be available for an interview later in the following week. When Dr Shea questioned Mr Colvin about the general nature of the program, he was assured that Four Corners would be doing an objective assessment of forest management and the timber industry in Western Australia. Dr Shea immediately offered him all the facilities of the Department to assist him with the project, and asked whether he had any material CALM had published on forest management in Western Australia. Mr Colvin said he had not and Dr Shea agreed to forward to him CALM's immediately Forest Management Plans and associated documents.

Dr Shea suggested it would be useful that he and Mr Colvin meet before he visited the Southern Forest so that Dr Shea could make arrangements to meet with staff of the Department at Manjimup. Mr Colvin advised he was about to leave for Manjimup and would not be able to take up the offer. Dr Shea assumed that this initial visit to Manjimup was in the nature of a general reconnaissance. However, as the discussion progressed, it became obvious the Four Corners team would actually be filming the story After Dr Shea ascertained this, he on this visit. suggested pleasantly to Mr Colvin that he must have already arranged some interviews. He reluctantly confirmed this. Dr Shea then suggested that the people he would be interviewing must be Mr Alex Syme from the Denmark Coalition for the Environment and Mr Tony Drake (Mr Syme is an author of the document entitled "Towards a Forest Accord in Western Australia").

Mr Colvin somewhat bashfully agreed that they had prearranged interviews with these people. Dr Shea then suggested it would be very valuable for him if he made contact with Alan Walker, CALM's Regional Manager at Manjimup, to assist him achieve his stated objective - "a balanced and fair story".

A series of documents - including the State's Forest Management Plans, the Timber Production Strategy, articles on the State's 100 million tree planting program on cleared agricultural land, the Forest Conservation Strategy, a recently published book on rare and endangered flora in Western Australia, the State's Submission to the Resource Assessment Commission, articles on the Department's award-winning wood utilisation process VALWOOD, a draft of a paper on royalties in Western Australia and other articles - was couriered across to the ABC that afternoon.

On Monday 4 June the Four Corners researcher, Mr Ray Moynihan, was contacted and invited to lunch with Dr Shea. He initially agreed and then subsequently phoned to say that he couldn't make lunch but that he would meet with Dr Shea in his office. Mr Moynihan was given a general briefing on forest issues in Western Australia by Dr Shea for a period of approximately an hour and a half. During this period of time, Mr Moynihan constantly reassured Dr Shea that the Four Corners team would be presenting a fair and balanced assessment of forest issues in Western Australia.

The Four Corners crew filmed in the Manjimup area on Friday 25 May and remained on location in Manjimup until Friday 1 June.

The Four Corners team, when they returned to Perth, arranged to interview Dr Shea on Foundation Day, 4 June. The interview lasted from 8.30 am to 12 noon. Prior to the interview they were shown the film segment that Professor David Bellamy had produced on the karri forest as part of a promotion of the State's proposal to plant 100 million trees on cleared agricultural land (the Tree Trust program). Dr Shea attempted on numerous occasions to interest the Four Corners team on the plantation program which had been initiated in Western Australia and which was strongly supported by Professor David Bellamy. Four Corners was provided with a copy of the tape of this Bellamy segment and subsequently written confirmation that the tape was owned by the Minister and that they had exclusive right to use it up until the Four Corners program was shown.

At the completion of the interview, the Four Corners team requested the opportunity to take some general vision of Dr Shea and if possible his Minister. Dr Shea had a commitment to attend a world environment day function in Cannington with his Minister and reluctantly agreed that they could attend to take general vision shots. He made the proviso, however, that since his Minister had not been advised that Four Corners would be at the function, that he should not be subjected to a surprise interview.

4. CONTACT WITH CALM REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANJIMUP

Despite his assurances that he would contact Alan Walker on the following day (25 May), when Mr Colvin arrived in Manjimup he did not do so. When this became known a letter was sent to the hotel where the crew were staying repeating the offer of assistance of the staff at Manjimup (see Appendix 18).

The first contact from the Four Corners crew in Manjimup came late on Friday evening with a request to Mr Walker to arrange for them to film tree felling and logging operations. This was arranged for early on Monday 28 May.

Following the field visit to film logging operations on 28 May, Alan Walker persuaded Mr Colvin to attend a detailed briefing over two hours on the evening of 28 May. Several CALM Regional staff outlined the Department's role, objectives and management practises in the southern forests. At this briefing Mr Colvin also agreed to accompany Mr Walker to a range of forest sites to film examples of CALM's forest management practises. This was arranged for Thursday 31 May.

An itinerary for the field visit with CALM was drawn up on 30 May and a copy delivered to Mark Colvin (see Appendix 19).

Only two of the eight arranged sites were actually visited. Mr Colvin stated that the crew had made another commitment that afternoon which they had to honour.

Although the opportunity was presented in the field to film the Big Brook Forest and Big Brook Dam to illustrate regrowth forests and multiple use management, the crew refused to film this site claiming that they did not know how they could fit it into the story.

The crew also refused to film at the Gloucester Tree site which illustrated CALM's management of forest recreation sites and the contribution to tourism in the southern forest.

Included in the itinerary was a visit to Big Brook Forest where CALM's ecology research officer in Manjimup, Grant Wardell-Johnson, was on hand to explain aspects of CALM's wildlife research program in karri regrowth forests. This visit was cancelled by Mr Colvin, who later, on ABC Regional radio (18 June 1990), claimed that scientists in CALM were reluctant to come out and speak because they were afraid of retaliation against them.

On 31 May Four Corners was invited to film CALM's Wood Utilisation Research Centre at Harvey (see Appendix 3). The Centre won the 1990 Government Technology Gold Award, a National award, for CALM's innovative VALWOOD process. This process turns waste wood into high quality timber products (see Appendix 23). Four Corners refused to film at the Centre.

As a follow-up to the briefing on 28 May some data were sent to Mr Colvin confirming some of the relevant points. Included in the data provided was a summary of the Karri first grade sawlog allocations to timber companies for 1989 and 1990 (see Appendix 20). The summary showed that Bunnings' entitlement was 76% in 1989 and 73% in 1990. This data was to be compared with the statement in the document "Towards a Forest Accord in Western Australia", which stated that Bunnings has exclusive access to over 90% of the first grade karri resource. Despite being this data, Mr Colvin still made the provided with assertion during his subsequent interview with Dr Shea that Bunnings had access to over 90% of the karri resource.

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REPLY TO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY THE FOUR CORNERS PROGRAM ON 18 JUNE 1990

The Four Corners team came to Western Australia on 24 May 1990. Their program went to air on 18 June 1990. In that time they spoke to only two CALM staff but to many more of CALM's critics, who received the great bulk of the program's time.

They interviewed Dr Syd Shea, Executive Director of CALM, for about three hours; they used barely two minutes of this time.

The following is a point-by-point analysis of moments in the program in the order in which they occurred.

1. Andrew Olle: "But will David Bellamy eat his words? After that world premiere of his latest role, as spokesman for the Western Australian Government, some of his old friends in the conservation movement might suggest the pop botanist can't see the wood for the trees."

> Dr Shea was keen to provide the opportunity for Four Corners to see Professor Bellamy's statements on forests because Professor Bellamy had been such a strong advocate of the Government's Tree Trust program, which Dr Shea regarded as a major achievement in Western Australia.

> Olle's description of Professor Bellamy as a "pop botanist" is not only belittling, it is strange. Mr

Philip Toyne, the President of the Australian Conservation Foundation (who later appears in the interview), heads an organisation that publishes a magazine called Habitat which in its April 1988 edition described Bellamy somewhat more respectfully as "an internationally recognised British botanist and environmental campaigner."

- 2. Mark Colvin (Four Corners reporter): "Karri and Jarrah are dense strong hardwoods, timber, a valuable cash crop for those who can harvest it." (Appendix 1, p. 2.)
 - Colvin's comment does not recognise that timber is a valuable renewable commodity which is required by Western Australians for building houses and making furniture. Currently Western Australia cannot supply sufficient timber to meet its own needs.
 - If local timber is not available, timber will have to be imported, thereby exacerbating our balance of payment problems and contributing to further pressure on those rainforests of the world which are not managed on a sustained-yield basis.
- 3. Murray Johnson (Art Gallery owner): "We have just one chance at this resource ..., and at the moment we are mining it, we are quarrying it ..." (Appendix 1, p. 3.)
 - When you mine something it is gone. Western Australian forests are <u>not</u> gone - they are managed on a sustained yield basis. There is significantly more timber grown than is harvested (see Appendix 9).

provided with a Mr Colvin was copy of the Government's Timber Strategy which clearly sets down the principles under which the multiple use forest is managed. One of the key principles is that "the harvest from the forest will be regulated to levels can indefinitely" that be sustained (Timber Production in Western Australia, p. 2).

4. Johnson: "We're really using it [timber] in a very inefficient way. We are sending railway sleepers to England in mature jarrah, it's madness." (Appendix 1, p. 3.)

Timber quality varies. Wherever possible, and according to the quality of the timber, the material is used for the maximum valued product. It would be stupid for the sawmillers or the Department to do otherwise.

Colvin was offered the opportunity several times to examine the Department's revolutionary and awardwinning utilisation technology, but he declined (see Appendix 3).

The proportion of Western Australian sawn timber produced as sleepers in 1988-89 was 8.9%. Approximately half were used in Western Australia.

CALM is promoting the use of alternative timber for railway sleepers, such as treated pine, and is experimenting with techniques such as dowling to enable low grade wood to be used as sleepers.

5. Colvin: "Pieces of jarrah, the same size of this, are being burned in a new silicon smelter." (Appendix 1, p. 3.) At this point, the program showed a crafted wooden vase, implying that the creation of the smelter would threaten resource available for craftwood. In fact, the availability of jarrah craftwood in the southwest far exceeds demand. No jarrah timber which is needed by the craftwood industry is being burned in the silicon smelter, nor is any material being used in the smelter which could be used for sawlog production.

The silicon smelter is a new industry in south Western Australia using silica and waste timber to produce silicon metal for the computer industry. Current estimates of residual material in State forest indicate they will last at least 300 years at the silicon smelter's present approved level of production even if no trees grew over that period.

Colvin: "Bunnings and its woodchip arm, WACAP, stay on top, because of a cosy relationship with the State Government, and that its profits are subsidised by the West Australian tax-payer." Three areas of subsidy were mentioned by Colvin: cheap rail freight from Westrail, "poverty level" wages to timber workers and cheap timber royalties. (Appendix 1, p. 4.)

6.

The economics of rail freighting woodchips was extensively and publicly debated some 15 years ago. The question of timber royalty rates is discussed in detail under items 14 and 15.

The Government openly subsidises all industries in Western Australia by providing supporting infrastructure such as ports, roads <u>and railways</u>.

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The timber industry would prefer to transport its timber products using public roads. However, the community of Western Australia prefers to separate the transport of timber from other road users, preferring to use the rail system.

Timber workers in Western Australia are covered by a State award which is higher than the Federal award covering timber workers in other States. For example, in WA wood machinists (tradesmen) receive a total wage of \$409 per week, whilst those in Victoria and Tasmania receive \$393.80. In addition, WA timber workers are paid on a par with other workers (e.g. toolmakers under the WA Metal Trades Award). It is interesting that the ABC team did not include Dr Shea's response to the question about the workers being on "poverty levels":

ABC INTERVIEWER: They're not far off the poverty line - do you think you're really doing them a favour by continuing to prop up the industry?

DR SHEA: ... The thing that I don't want to do is put them on the dole and not only remove a significant portion of their salary, to remove their dignity and pride. (See Appendix 2, p. 19.)

7. Phillip Toyne (Australian Conservation Foundation) claims that the timber industry "is a disaster for the proper ecological management of forest, ... and for the economy of the South-West." (Appendix 1, p. 4.)

> Four Corners did not request Toyne to present any data to back up either statement, but simply accepted it uncritically. Nor was Toyne asked about likely effects on the south-west economy should the timber industry be required to close down in native forests,

which is the view of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

A scientist was made available to the Four Corners team to discuss forest ecology, but they declined to interview him. Numerous publications were provided on the ecological research that has been carried out in the forest by CALM and its predecessors but none was referred to.

8. Toyne stated that "at the same time as you're seeing this vast increase in resource going into export woodchip, you're seeing a massive decline in local jobs as local sawmills close." (Appendix 1, p. 4.)

Four Corners accepted this simplistic assertion quite uncritically, but the figures are incomplete. In fact, over the 20 year period to 1985 there was a decline in employment in the sawmilling industry. This resulted from closure of mills (as a consequence of Government policy on sustained yield harvesting levels), increased mechanisation and modernisation of mills and the transfer of many jobs off the mill site.

At the same time there has been a substantial increase in employment in the value-adding sectors of the timber processing industries. For example during the last 10 years employment in this sector has increased by 24%.

In fact, there is no relationship between employment levels and the advent of the woodchip industry. Prior to this industry, the wood that it now uses was burnt. The woodchip industry employs 353 people.

Colvin failed to query Toyne's attempt to try to connect the advent of the woodchipping industry with

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employment in the sawmilling industry, which are not connected.

9. Colvin: "Now for the first time, ... the economics of the forest are to be scrutinised by an independent umpire [the Resource Assessment Commission]." (Appendix 1, p. 4.)

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The Four Corners program did not show the part of the interview with Dr Shea that addressed this question: "What I can say is that we strongly support the Resource Assessment Commission because it brings a degree of objectivity and professionalism in this debate which hasn't been there in recent times." (Appendix 2, p. 35.)

. CALM welcomes the enquiry by the RAC. Whilst the environmental aspects of forest management have been scrutinised and approved by the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority on two separate occasions over the last 15 years, this will be the first occasion on which we will be able to present resource and economic data to an independent enquiry.

10. Toyne: "Part of the black hole that constitutes the CALM accounts since they amalgamated their forest activities with the super department, including conservation, is that we don't know what the taxpayers of Western Australia are paying by way of subsidy." (Appendix 1, p. 5.)

. All CALM's financial dealings are scrutinised by the Treasury and the Office of the Auditor General; they are published in an annual report which is available to every taxpayer, and they are presented to Parliament. The results of all timber sales by auction or tender are publicly available. In addition, a press release is made after each timber sale giving details of the successful company and the prices.

The Department's revenue derived from timber has increased from \$17.165 million in 1984-85 to \$52.709 million in 1988-89. Ninety six percent of the Department's revenue came from royalties and other charges made on the timber industry.

Expenditure in 1984-85 on establishment and tending of forests was \$7.517 million and in 1988-89 was \$12.674 million and \$16.839 million on servicing commercial operations compared with \$3.304 million in 1984-85.

Department's total revenue from timber The has increased by about 325% in the five years since CALM was formed. The increased cost of establishing new forests was only \$5 million. The large increase in commercial operations was due to a change in Government policy whereby CALM is progressively assuming control of all logging operations.

11. Toyne: "In the decade prior to amalgamation in the mid-80s West Australians contributed \$100 million by the way of subsidies through the Forests Department to the [timber] industry and there is absolutely no indication that the figure has declined and is likely to be still in place today." (Appendix 1, p. 5.)

> Toyne was not required by Four Corners to explain the basis of this assertion. Colvin simply accepted it uncritically and treated it as gospel. CALM is not aware of any direct Government subsidy to the timber industry. In the five years since CALM was formed timber royalties have been increased by up to 500% and revenue to the Government from the timber

industry has increased by about 300%. Money spent by CALM on reforestation and forest protection is greatly exceeded by the value of the resulting forest.

- 12. Johnson: "The fault is definitely with Government, to give our timber resource, at a subsidised rate, to a private concern who used the wood much less efficiently than other milling methods that are available." (Appendix 1, p. 6.)
 - This is simply a repetition of earlier points (see items 4 and 6). An interesting example of the bias in the program was allowing a CALM critic two opportunities to say the same thing.
- 13. Johnson: Bunnings are "paying around a third for the wood, about a third as much as the local Australian-owned small mills will pay." (Appendix 1, p. 6.)
 - At this point and at other points during the program no distinction was being made for prices paid for different grades of logs. Premium logs, which are the cream of the logs produced, obviously attract a higher price than first grade logs.
 - Royalty reviews carried out in 1986 and 1989 have established new levels, considerably higher than previous levels. The new levels (called "target royalties") are being phased in. Royalty payments by all sawmills, including Bunnings, will be phased in by 1 January 1992.

The Western Australian State Government decided to phase in target royalties to protect the local timber industry, particularly the jobs of timber workers. This decision also had the effect of minimising an increase of timber imports into the State. (See Appendix 4.)

In addition, Bunnings have agreed during the phasingin period to make a major contribution to timber research and improved utilisation of sawlogs. For example, Bunnings has made a multi-million dollar investment in new sawmilling technology which has allowed the utilisation of small-diameter karri regrowth thinnings as sawlogs which were previously used for woodchips.

No company is paying the target royalty for allocated first grade logs yet. However, an increasing proportion of logs are sold by auction or tender rather than being allocated. The upset price for tenders or auction is the target royalty. In almost all cases bids above the upset royalty have been received (Appendix 4, the attached CALM Briefing Paper on timber royalties, provides more details).

14. Colvin: "Prices [for logs] are the closest secret in the south-western timber industry. No member of the public has even seen the list of what Bunnings pays CALM for its full range of logs." (Appendix 1, p. 6.)

> The results of all public timber sales are published, including those won by Bunnings. One member of the public (Tony Drake), who made an enquiry on this question, was given a written statement of the royalties paid by Bunnings for allocated logs, in October 1989. In a letter published in the "Warren-Blackwood Times", the Acting Executive Director of CALM publicly offered any enquirer full details of royalties at that time: "... there are no secrets on log royalty. I am happy to provide any enquirer with

information about the royalties paid by any timber company in Western Australia" (see Appendix 5).

numerous prices for logs are in There Western Australia because of the large number of species and the large number of different grades of logs within each species, and when increasing proportions of the resource are put on the open market by tender or auction as different prices are struck. The basic royalty structure (see Appendix 6) was provided to the Four Corners team. As noted above (see Appendix 5), there is no constraint on any individual obtaining information about the price paid by any company for any log. The Four Corners team could have had this information hand-delivered to them.

CALM's policy is that log prices are <u>not</u> secret. Colvin did not seek any information from CALM on this issue before making his assertion.

15. Colvin: "For first grade karri logs, the largest royalty is \$34.00 a cubic metre. The few logs that go to auction fetch up to \$70.00, but that Bunnings pays CALM only \$25.32 cents for each cubic metre it logs." (Appendix 1, p. 6.)

The target royalty for karri first grade logs is \$38.50/m³. For reasons already explained, Bunnings, (and all other companies) do not yet pay this target royalty. Furthermore, different grades of logs are being compared in Colvin's analysis, but he fails to mention this. Bunnings take a lower quality (smaller diameter) first grade log than any other sawmiller.

Colvin: "Tony Drake says he can get 60% [recovery] out of

16.

a log that you [large mills] only get 40% out of." (Appendix 1, p. 8.)

While higher recoveries are usually achieved by small labour-intensive sawing techniques, the average difference is much less than alleged by Drake. Most large modern mills achieve a 60% or better recovery from high quality first grade karri sawlogs. However, because these mills also take low quality and small sawlogs, their average recovery comes down to around 45%. Mr Drake has recently made public some of his own recovery figures: from all logs sawn in his mill, the average recovery ranged from 35 to 38%.

If requested to do so by the timber industry CALM would be pleased to participate in a properly designed large-scale trial to settle this allegation once and for all. Such a trial must take into consideration not only recovery rates but the type of product that is being produced from sawn timber and in particular the proportion of sawn timber that can be used for value-added products such as fine furniture timber. It is also of little use having a high recovery rate of a product which cannot be sold.

Considering that one of the focal points of the Four Corners story was supposedly utilisation, it is strange that they refused on three occasions to view the utilisation research that was being carried out. Nor did they show the major point that Dr Shea made in his interview about utilisation:

"But see, the real argument is not about percentage recovery of sawn timber. You see the real argument is putting value on that beautiful hardwood, and the good news is that that's happening in Western Australia. "And the reason why it's happening is because we have been able to give security on the one hand to those who want the jewels of the forests and national parks, and security to the timber industry, the large ones and the little ones, because that's enabled them to invest in the new technology, the exciting new technology which is producing furniture grade timber from our hardwood forest.

"And if you really want to talk about employment, a number of people working in this industry in a creative way, if you want to talk about export income, then give us the encouragement to proceed along the way we're going, because it's in valueadded products that we're going to succeed in achieving the best for the timber industry in this State.... In the last five years, we've reduced the cut-over area of forest by 40% by improvement in utilisation." (See Appendix 2.)

17. Beth Schultz (WA Conservation Council): There is a forest reference tree there, it's HY over 89 over 1. It's clearly marked, there's a forestry white X painted on it, which shows that they knew where it was too. And then you drive from that down to the boundary, using a map, and it's about 750 or 800 metres south of that tree to where the boundary would be, just simply using a map and an odometer. (Appendix 1, p. 10.)

CALM's position on this incident of tree felling in the Shannon National Park has always been that the catchment boundary is extremely difficult to locate in the field. No-one can be certain about the precise location of the watershed boundary unless an accurate cadastral survey is completed. A letter (Appendix 22) from a licensed surveyor (Mr J.H. Towie) confirms the difficulty of establishing the precise boundary. For example:

"As the watershed has never been established by ground survey, but interpolated from small scale aerial photography, probably of a map scale of 1:25,000 at the best, the likelihood of ground survey coinciding with the map position of the watershed is extremely unlikely." (See Appendix 21.)

Colvin: "For years, CALM denied this [Tony Drake's] mill access to first grade logs. When the rules finally changed, Tony Drake tested the first batch of seven he was allocated." (Appendix 1, p. 8.)

18.

The first part of Colvin's statement is false. The Department of Conservation and Land Management was formed in March 1985. Middlesex Sawmill (proprietor Tony Drake,) won a parcel of first grade and second grade logs at auction in 1986. Following the Timber Strategy (1987), CALM commenced negotiations immediately with all registered sawmills regarding future contracts of sale for log supplies. Middlesex Sawmill signed a contract of sale with CALM in March 1988. First grade sawlogs were supplied to Middlesex Sawmill as part of this contract of sale.

Since the Timber Strategy CALM has entered into 250 individual contracts of sale with sawmills resulting from allocations and public auctions and tenders.

19. Colvin: "CALM breached its own Forest Regulations by allowing logs to be removed without having been properly branded." (Appendix 1, p. 9.)

> "Chalk branding" of logs is a common practice in Western Australia. Not only are there several

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instances each year of fallers requiring a branding hammer (through loss replacement or excessive wear), but many previously branded logs are docked on the landing, requiring additional chalk branding. When a faller has mislaid his branding hammer, CALM gives permission to mark the logs with chalk.

20. Colvin: "Western Australian forests have natural predators as well as human ones. This fungus, <u>Armillaria</u> <u>luteobubalina</u>, is well known to some as "karri dieback". It thrives on the dead timber that's left after logging and there's concern about its effect on young karri trees in regrowth forests." (Appendix 1, p. 11.)

> This is a throwback to another ABC "in-depth investigator", Mr Peter Hunt, who coined the term in an Earthworm program over two years ago.

> Interestingly, the CSIRO, in response to a query from Dr Shea about this interview, raised concerns about the Earthworm program concerning the use of emotive words and "misunderstanding perhaps combined with a small amount of editing of the original discussion." (See Appendix 8.)

21. Colvin: "Jarrah dieback has already ravaged huge areas." He then displayed a map of State forest on which large circles were marked which indicated that nearly 70% of the forest has been "ravaged" by the disease. (Appendix 1, p. 11.)

> The scale of the map displayed by Four Corners was very misleading. Detailed and accurate maps could have been provided by CALM had they been requested by Four Corners. Such maps were not requested.

Approximately 187,200 ha (10%) of State forest and timber reserves are affected by dieback. Not all of this has been "ravaged" by the disease. In many cases only some species in the understorey are affected.

22. Colvin: "There be gaping holes the seems to in administration of the quarantine laws. Whatever the regulations say, the policing of the rules big has problems." (Appendix 1, p. 11.)

> The primary benefit of the quarantine program has been that it has enabled CALM to control the main agencies spreading dieback and to minimise access to quarantined forest.

> Nearly a million hectares of State forest in Western Australia have been quarantined since 1977. The quarantine areas are crisscrossed by a maze of thousands of forest, public and farmer access roads. CALM does its best to maintain the security of these areas, but it is not always easy to keep up with the vandals.

23. Colvin: "All the indications are that the rules, which are supposed to prevent the spread of dieback further through the forest, are being continually ignored and flouted." [An example was shown of a machine crossing a quarantine boundary without washdown.] (Appendix 1, p. 11.)

The machine shown on the program was operating within dieback-free forest under permit in dry soil conditions and in an area of non-susceptible vegetation. Under these conditions washing down is simply not within even CALM's stringent hygiene rules. In fact, dust could be seen rising from the machine's wheels on the Four Corners film - clear indication to any experienced person that a washdown was not required.

Furthermore, the CALM staff working within the quarantine area had an official permit to do so. The ABC personnel did not.

CALM takes its responsibilities to observe dieback rules very seriously. All operations are subjected to a management and hygiene test to ensure dieback is not spread.

24. Colvin: "More than a century of logging has made massive inroads into the karri and jarrah forests." [Pictures shown of recently clearfelled areas.] (Appendix 1, p. 12.)

> Colvin's implication is that WA forests are disappearing as a result of logging. This is untrue. Over the last 150 years large reductions in forest areas have been the result of agricultural and urban development, not timber cutting. Many forests regrown after logging are proposed by conservationists to become national parks (see Appendix 9) - for example, the beautiful Boranup karri forest, which was clearfelled and regenerated approximately 100 years The Australian Conservation Foundation said ago. about this area of forest: "that ... it should be recognised for ... its ... outstanding biological values and represent a secure and more adequate reserve system for the forest of the central area". In fact, this area of forest is being included into the national park. Very large areas of jarrah forest cut-over and regenerated in the 1920s and 1930s have been included in the Lane Poole Reserve, one of the south-west's most popular forest recreation areas.

. Although Colvin was taken to a superb

regrowth forest near Big Brook, he declined to film

60-year

25. Colvin: "CALM scientists say a third of forest birds need hollows, which only form in trees 120 years or older, yet the policy is to log after only 100 years." (Appendix 1, p. 13.)

. Colvin asked CALM's Regional Manager Alan Walker at interview about CALM's policy to log after only 100 years. The substance of Walker's answer, which was not used on the program, is as follows:

"CALM's strategy to provide habitat for hole nesting species is to provide an extensive network of unlogged strips and patches throughout the karri forest. The road, river and stream zone network provides the primary nesting site habitat and subsequent opportunity for species recolonisation into adjacent regrowth forests. Additional habitat zones are provided through `special care buffer zones' retained around rock outcrops, swamps, woodlands, wetlands, large trees and steep slopes."

Even in the case of the karri forest, no regrowth areas in State forest have reached 100 years in age. The oldest substantial areas being managed for multiple use (including timber production) are only 60 years old. Over the next 40 years there will be ample opportunity to extend the rotation age for karri to 120 years or more, if research shows this to be necessary to prevent bird species becoming endangered. CALM is conducting research into these issues.

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le **it.** Africa -Va enge sufficie Colvin failed to mention the extensive network of unlogged reserves throughout the forest and which provide old growth habitat for wildlife. Nor did he give CALM any credit for establishing them, or for conducting research into forest wildlife and its conservation, or for retaining habitat trees in cutover jarrah forests.

26. Colvin: "The Department [CALM] was formed in 1985. It put the National Parks and Wildlife Service under the same roof as the Forests Department. CALM's critics say the interests of the environment have never recovered." (Appendix 1, p. 13.)

> Significantly, Four Corners did not show the section of the interview where Dr Shea specifically dealt with the question of an integrated agency (see Appendix 2, pp. 1 and 2).

> Colvin did not put "the critics" on camera, name them, or provide a single fact or piece of evidence to support this assertion. Nor did Colvin seek alternative views. Nor did he mention the many positive things CALM has done in the environmental area, e.g. the establishment of numerous new national parks and the State's first marine parks, the appointment of scientific and ecological officers to regions and districts all over the State where there were none before, and a major commitment to ecological research and consultative management planning.

> In reply to questions from a Select Committee on Land Conservation, Mr Norman Halse, Chairman of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and a previous president of the Conservation Council of Western Australia, stated:

"CALM's dual roles in managing the conservation estate and State forests for timber production are not considered to be incompatible. These two roles would only be incompatible if CALM were given a further responsibility to meet a specific part of Western Australia's timber requirement. In the absence of such a responsibility CALM manages the forest in the best way for long-term production and multiple use and then makes available the timber production from such management.

"The combination of nature conservation activities with the other duties of CALM means that expertise and information on nature conservation is easily available within the organisation and is applied everywhere in its management activities."

Mr Halse has issued a press release condemning the Four Corners program (see Appendix 10).

27. Alex Syme: From the formation of CALM "the number of employees consisted of about 1400 employees from the Forests Department, and only around about 100 people from National Parks and Wildlife and Fisheries and Fauna ... the Department is dominated by production forest thinking foresters." (Appendix 1, p. 14.)

> Syme's figures are almost correct. At the time of amalgamation the number of people employed (including part-time employees) by the three component departments were: Forests Department 1311, National Parks 102, Wildlife 73, for a total of 1486. Of this total fewer than 7% were professional foresters.

The total number of staff with forestry training (professional and field staff) was only 345, or 23.7%.

Of the 429 new employees hired by CALM since 1985, only 13.5% are foresters.

Of the 218 professional (university trained) staff employed currently by CALM, 135 have degrees other than forestry (e.g. zoology, botany, environmental science etc.) and some forestry trained staff have second degrees in other disciplines.

CALM manages more than 18 million hectares of land in Western Australia on behalf of the people of Western Australia. It does not determine the land management land management objectives. Ultimately policy or these are determined by the Government. The CALM Act provides for the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and the Lands and Forest Commission to submit the management plans for these lands and waters to the Government for approval. The Act also has a statutory requirement for public participation the land management in planning process.

The Statutory bodies under which CALM operates are the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA) and the Lands and Forest Commission (LFC). The NPNCA has a membership of 14, only three of whom are foresters; the LFC has one forester out of three members. The CALM Corporate Executive has а membership of 10, of which five are foresters and five are not. Of the 45 senior management and scientific positions in CALM, 20 are trained foresters and 25 are not.

Not all foresters think in terms of timber production. Many foresters in CALM specialise in ecology, research, recreation, education, environmental protection, fire management and park and reserve management.

28. Syme: "They've taken away a small quantity of jarrah for sawlogs. They've taken away almost all the marri trees for woodchip logs, and left an awful lot of good timber that's going to be burnt and wasted.... The trees that are left standing, as you can see, are dying. They've been poisoned." (Appendix 1, p. 14.)

> In any industry there are low grade and high grade products - apples, for instance. There is a special problem in forest management. Low grade logs, if left standing in the forest, impede the regeneration of a new forest after logging and result generally in a less productive forest.

> Historically forest managers have removed low grade logs in a number of ways, including ringbarking and felling.

> CALM is constantly trying to develop new markets or new products so that this material can be used. In the meantime, cull trees (small or ill-formed trees which no sawmiller can utilise and which are competing with retained "crop trees") must be removed in order to ensure that a productive forest develops in the future.

> CALM's goal is to phase out this operation through further improvements in timber utilisation.

29. Syme: "The total area of forest logged each year is around 300 sq km [in jarrah]. As a result the old forest will soon be gone." (Appendix 1, p. 15.)

> Colvin did not query and apparently did not check these figures. In fact, the total area of jarrah logged in 1987 was around 18,500 ha (185 sq km), in 1988 was 24,000 ha (240 sq km), and in 1989 was 15,300 ha (153 sq km). About a quarter of these areas required post-logging treatment (jarrah stand improvement) to enhance naturally occurring jarrah regeneration.

> The Timber Strategy (Figure 4(b), page 44 and Figure 6(b), page 51) indicates that old growth in multiple use State forest will still be available until at least the year 2035. A substantial area of old growth forest will continue within the reserve system for ever. The figures as shown in the State Government's submission to the Resource Assessment Commission are as follows. In the karri forest 46% of old growth forest is in national parks (or forests to become reserves under the original management parks or plans). For the jarrah forest the equivalent figure is 30%, and for wandoo the figure is 70%. For the karri forest an additional 24% is within road, river and stream zones which are not planned to be clearfelled.

> Colvin was given a copy of these documents but failed to check Syme's facts in them. Nor did he question Syme over his incorrect data. This contrasts oddly with his sustained and eager hounding of a typing error in a 1988 CALM document.

30. Syme: "This particular coupe here is an area which has originally been left as a corridor for wildlife between

two of the coupes you can see on either side of it, and they've taken it out." (Appendix 1, p. 15.)

Apart from some carefully designed research areas, no areas nominated as wildlife corridors have been clearfelled. The coupe shown on film looked like Thompson 4, part of a contiguous area which is being harvested and regenerated at planned intervals. The strip shown was never designated as a wildlife corridor. Colvin made no attempt to verify Syme's assertion with CALM, but accepted it quite uncritically.

31. Colvin claims "there is deep disquiet in the scientific community about a CALM proposal to log in previously sacrosanct road and river reserves." (Appendix 1, p. 15.)

In December 1987 the Regional Management Plan for the Southern Forest Region stated in part (p. 11) that:

No changes will be made to the existing system without evaluation and approval by the EPA.

The zones will not be subjected to clearfelling.

However, selective cutting in the zones, which has been practised throughout the period since the EIS was approved, will continue. (This refers to the thinning of even-aged regrowth stands which originated from clearfelling and regeneration 50-odd years ago.)

There will be no decrease in the area of the existing road, river and stream zones.

This information was provided to Four Corners. It was not used.

What has been said publicly many times is that the road reserve system is twice what was legally required by the EIS. The proposal to do some selective logging, if approved, in the "road, river and stream reserves" refers to the additional 200 metre width which would be added to the legally required road, river and stream reserve system.

32. Dr Chittleborough: "I can't imagine scientists within CALM saying that they understand the ecosystem enough to manage it." (Appendix 1, p. 16.)

In a subsequent interview with ABC Regional Radio Bunbury, Colvin said that CALM scientists were reluctant to speak to him for fear of retribution to them or their families (see Appendix 13). Yet Mr Colvin declined to take the opportunity to interview a CALM scientist working on karri forest ecology.

. CALM does not claim to know everything about forest ecosystems. Nor can it close down the WA timber industry till it does.

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CALM and one of its predecessors (the Forests Department) have studied the effects of forest management on flora and fauna since 1970. Since that time there have been detailed single species studies on rare and endangered species (e.g. the woylie, numbat and tammar). A series of plots with detailed recording of the effects of different fire regimes on plants have been in place since 1970. There are in place detailed long-term studies of the effects of felling and regeneration on karri forest bird communities. Studies of communities of forest birds and animals have also been done in relation to fire in both the karri and jarrah forest. There have been

a series of plant and community ecological studies both in the jarrah and karri forest. There are also several studies completed and ongoing by non-CALM scientists, including work on species such as the chuditch, the karri mud minnow, hollow nesting species and nutrient cycling. None of this was referred to by Four Corners.

In addition, biological surveys in the forest were started in 1970 and have been ongoing, particularly in the karri region. From these the distribution of vertebrate species is well-known and is documented in Forests Department Bulletin 94 of 1985. These studies contributed to work on the location and establishment of series of conservation a. reserves called Management Priority Areas for flora and fauna. Under CALM most of these have since become gazetted as national parks and nature reserves or are proposed to become parks and reserves. This was not mentioned by Four Corners.

One of these areas is the Perup State forest, where the best populations of some of the rare and such as the woylie, endangered species tammar, numbat, chuditch and western ring-tail possum exist. Perup is used for the continued development of techniques for management these species. The management has been so successful that the Perup is one of the best areas where significant mainland populations of these species exist, and it is to be declared a nature reserve. It is also used to run courses on wildlife ecology, and very popular University extension courses are held there each spring and autumn. Four Corners did not refer to the Perup.

Over 150 scientific publications deal with karri biology and ecology. A list is published in Landnote 8/86.

A further 100 references or so on fire effects in south-west forests have been recently listed in a review by Christensen and Abbott.

33. Colvin: "Whatever the scientific arguments, money talks louder. The need to feed the timber industry's appetite for wood is bound to be a driving force in CALM's thinking about how to manage the forest." (Appendix 1, p. 17.)

> Colvin makes the assumption that CALM is "driven" by the timber industry to feed it with wood. But the community, through the Government, determines the level of timber produced in the forests. In addition, CALM is required <u>by legislation</u> to responsibly manage State forests to produce timber on a sustained yield basis. This timber is an important commodity used by Western Australians for building houses, furniture, railways, etc. Colvin's view that CALM is simply feeding an "industry appetite" demonstrates a muddled approach to economic and social issues.

> If Western Australia does not produce its own timber, it will have to import it, with serious economic consequences. Sawn timber imports into Western Australia in 1989 exceeded 92,000 cubic metres. This was an increase of 123% on the previous year.

34. Colvin made use of Dr Shea's quote in CALM's newsletter which stated that CALM's contractual arrangement with the timber industry was forcing it to consider logging in the road, river and stream reserves. (Appendix 1, p. 17.)

See the answer to item 31.

35. Colvin: "The glossy image CALM shows the world is one of openness and accessibility. In real life, the Department maintains an iron grip on information. Even the Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra watch-dog on our natural treasures, can't get the data it needs." (Appendix 1, p. 18.)

> In a press release the Australian Heritage Commission has comprehensively rebutted the statements made in the Four Corners program (see Appendix 7). In his letter to Dr Shea, the Commission's Acting Director, Mr Gerard Early, said about the program: "I was dismayed to see the reference to the Australian Heritage Commission. About the only accurate comment was that we declined to be interviewed."

36. Colvin: "But you've [Dr Shea] told me what the Australian Heritage Commission says you can do within the law. What I'm saying is, common sense surely would dictate that if it's part of the National Heritage, you wouldn't go in and clearfell it." (Appendix 1, p. 20.)

CALM has never clearfelled any areas which are on the register of the National Estate.

Mr Gerard Early in his press release said: "Listing of a place in the Register is essentially an alerting mechanism by which the special heritage values of a place are brought to the notice of decision-makers, planners, owners and the general community. The Register is not a land management system."

37. Colvin: "The Australian Heritage Commission is still trying to improve relations with CALM. Four Corners understands, however, that the Commission has been waiting for two years for information on areas in the south-west The Commission is concerned, angry and frustrated over delays in cooperation from CALM." (Appendix 1, p. 20.)

Colvin did not identify the person who made this statement. However, in the media release on 19 June 1990 by the AHC, Mr Early stated that the Commission was particularly disappointed with the allegation made on national television, because he had "specifically rejected it when it was <u>put to him by</u> the Four Corners team".

Mr Early also said: "There is no denying that there have been differences of view between the AHC and CALM in the past. However, the two organisations continue to discuss a range of issues of mutual concern including forestry matters."

38. Colvin: "John Briggs and John Leigh are CSIRO botanists who compiled Australia's most comprehensive and respected Register of the country's rarest flora. But publication of their major reference work was held up for 18 months because CALM wouldn't cooperate. Only Western Australia insisted on putting in its own lower estimates, for endangered and vulnerable plants." (Appendix 1, p. 20.)

> It is strange in a nation that the Prime Minister says needs to become "clever" that a taxpayer-funded organisation should deliberately attempt to destroy the cooperation between two significant scientific organisations. The very essence of the cooperative Research Centre initiative announced by the Prime Minister was to overcome the geographical and institutional barriers that have prevented Australia capitalising on its intellectual excellence.

Four Corners' allegations have been comprehensively refuted by Dr John Stocker, Chief Executive of the CSIRO (Appendix 14), in his letter to Dr Shea:

"A careful reading of the transcript will show that while the Four Corners reporter may have claimed that obstruction from CALM has been a problem, no such intention could be ascribed the CSIRO scientists concerned. In some instances comments by CSIRO scientists were taken out of context.

"I regret the distress which the program has caused to you and CALM scientists and assure you that I and the CSIRO scientists concerned in the program value CALM's cooperation highly."

The formal investigation of this program should determine when the CSIRO scientists were interviewed. Quite clearly Dr Shea was set up for this question as is indicated in the transcript of his interview (see Appendix 2, p. 6).

Australia has Western had endangered flora legislation since 1980. We were the first State to have such legislation, and until Victoria passed their Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act recently we were the only State in Australia with such legislation. CALM has the best database on endangered flora anywhere in Australia and has readily provided all its data (except the exact locations of declared endangered plants) to the CSIRO for publication. Locations are provided for research purposes only; locations of endangered plants exact are not published to prevent illegal exploitation by seed collectors or damage by over-visitation. CALM has carried out extensive surveys of endangered plants in Western Australia over the last 15 years and has

recently published a book (Western Australia's Endangered Flora) which provides details on all declared rare and endangered plants. CALM has also recently published a management program for all declared endangered plants in the Northern Forest Region and is developing similar programs for the other forest regions. Colvin's insinuation that CALM is secretive in this regard is ridiculous.

There was an extensive period of consultation between CSIRO and CALM scientists over this issue. One reason for CALM's caution (not secrecy) is that the term "endangered" has a specific legal meaning in our legislation and this is not the case in other States.

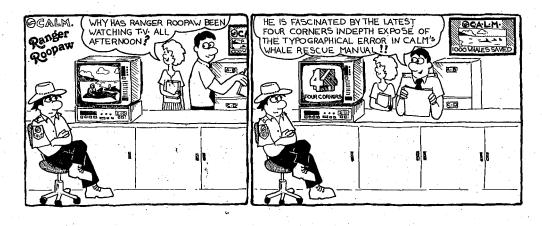
- 39. Colvin: "Briggs and Leigh quote figures that 15% of the world's endangered plants are in Australia and 45% of these are in the West. Obstruction from CALM is a real problem." (Appendix 1, p. 21.)
 - As the Four Corners program concentrates on forest management in the south-west forests, it's a pity Mr Colvin did not also say that only 9 out of 238 plant declared endangered species in Western Australia occur in State forest in the Southern Forest Region, and none of these is threatened by logging and regeneration. The Four Corners team was of CALM's publication qiven а copy Western Australia's Endangered Flora, but did not refer to it on the program.
 - CALM has never been "obstructive" over this issue. This assertion by Colvin is totally unsubstantiated.
- 40. Colvin: "CALM even sees basic definitions through timber coloured spectacles." He quoted a misprint in a CALM

document which gave the definition of a mature forest as being the state at which the stand best fulfils the main purpose of loading onto a haulage vehicle. (Appendix 1, p. 22.)

In view of the large amount of editing carried out (the total time given to Dr Shea was two minutes out of a total of three hours of recorded interview) it is amazing how Colvin dwelt on this question in his interview with Alan Walker.

Walker explained a number of times that the incorrect definition of a mature forest was the result of a typographical error. On the same day he showed the relevant pages to Colvin, clearly demonstrating the misprint. Despite knowing this, Colvin still made his false assertion that CALM sees basic definitions through timber-coloured spectacles. Appendix 15 shows the correct definition as printed in the Southern Forest Regional Management Plan (1987). It also shows how the typographical error was made.

Even CALM's Ranger Roopaw (a regular commentator in CALM's inhouse paper) has been moved to make a comment about the significance of typographical errors to in-depth current affairs reporters.



41. Drake: "Well, I mean, if the Government was silly enough to be so radical as to do it all in one hit, I mean, it might happen, I mean the worst that would then follow, would be that you'd have hundreds of people unemployed for a few months, until CALM decided to sell that wood to some new industry people, who would then re-employ the ones that were put off work." (Appendix 1, p. 23.)

After his interview with Dr Shea, Colvin edited out Dr Shea's reply to a question as to why the Government does not put all the timber on the open market (Appendix 2, p. 18).

ABC INTERVIEWER: The Government doesn't put the timber that it puts on the market on the open market.

DR SHEA: But it does, it does put a significant proportion of the timber on the open market over periods of time.

For example, I've just told you that we had two massive tenders for regrowth karri - that's the new forest.

But you see, if we put all of the timber on the open market tomorrow, we would do what happened - what happened in North America on the west coast, is that we would get extraordinarily good prices for a year, then the whole industry would become chaotic, and there would be massive unemployment.

What we've chosen to do, and I think you'll agree, is something which is an intelligent way of approaching the situation, is to have a blend of the existing system of allocation with increasing proportions over time of the resource being put on the market.

You see, Mark, it would be easy for me to take the easy route out, and say "the simplest solution to

this problem is not going to any complex calculations - we'll just throw it all on the market".

But by doing that I would create chaos - I wouldn't suffer - ABC journalists wouldn't suffer, but ordinary people down in those towns who depend on their jobs for a stable timber industry would be out of a job.

Now, I'm not prepared to do that.

42. The Four Corners program made several personal attacks on Dr Shea, the Executive Director of CALM; specifically that he is the real power within the forest industry, and that he has a politician's knack of kissing babies when there is a camera about. (Appendix 1, p. 24.)

> When he made these voiceover remarks, the reporter neglected to mention that the baby was Dr Shea's and that Dr Shea had been asked to pick her up for a general vision shot.

This unethical personal attack on the Executive Director of CALM provides an indication of the motives and modus operandi of the Four Corners team.

This incident has been fully documented in an official complaint to the Managing Director of the ABC. (See Appendix 16.)

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43. Colvin contradicted Dr Shea's claim that a Commissioner and his staff from the Resource Assessment Commission were impressed by what they saw in the forest. In support Colvin used a quote from a RAC letter: "the Resource Assessment Commission has not yet reached a conclusion or

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issued a final report on the way in which the forests are managed in Western Australia." (Appendix 1, p. 25.)

Colvin goes on to say: "When the RAC spotlights the forests of the South-West, CALM is going to have to justify its logging policies, like it or not."

Following is the full record of the interview with Dr Shea as it relates to the Resource Assessment Commission.

ABC INTERVIEWER: The Resource Assessment Commission has got the spotlight on you at the moment, and their particular interest is whether it is economically worthwhile to keep on cutting down the forest, to keep on managing them the way you are.

What's your answer to them? What's going to be the thrust of what you say to them?

Dr SHEA: What I can say is that we strongly support the Resource Assessment Commission because it brings a degree of objectivity and professionalism in this debate which hasn't been there in recent times.

The second thing I will say to you is that the Resource Assessment Commission has already been over here and has acclaimed our forest management.

The third thing I would say to you, is that we have made our submission to the Resource Assessment Commission, we've put all our cards on the table, and we believe because we've achieved those very very significant increases in prices of logs, and because of our efficiency that it is an economic proposition.

As I said to you, we're not talking about "small cheese" in this State. We're not only talking about an incredibly important reserve for tourism which has two million visits in the forests in the South-West.

We're also talking about an industry, which over the next ten years, will invest more than 200 million dollars and will yield to the State more than a billion dollars.

So, we believe the economics are right, but certainly we will welcome the Resource Assessment Commission's detailed and objective analysis and we hope that you mirror the analysis that they are going to do in your TV program when you show it.

ABC INTERVIEWER: The Commission is only in the preliminary stages of its investigations - it seems remarkable that you say they are acclaiming your forest management at this stage.

Dr SHEA: Certainly when we talked, we've had the Resource Assessment Commission, not all the Commissioners, but a Commissioner and their staff, and we took them through the forest, and much of the forest that you saw today, they acclaimed what they saw.

ABC INTERVIEWER: They acclaimed it?

Dr SHEA: Yes.

ABC INTERVIEWER: You have the seal of approval -

Dr SHEA: No we haven't -

ABC INTERVIEWER: From the Resources Assessment Commission.

Dr SHEA: - not in writing, we have their verbal thanks and congratulations on what was shown, and also their appreciation of what's being done.

In a letter to Dr Shea from Mr Alex Nicholson from the Resource Assessment Commission (see Appendix 17) attempt he documents the by the Four Corners to trick researcher him into making а damning statement about Dr Shea's response to the interviewer's query about the 'RAC. This is another example of the duplicity practised by the Four Corners team.

44. Colvin concluded the program by saying "What CALM is going to have to prove is that pouring millions of dollars of tax-payer's money each year into a giant State-subsidised timber company is the right way to manage the precious hardwood resources of Australia's south-west." (Appendix 1, p. 25.)

> Nowhere in the program did Colvin prove his assertion that CALM pours millions of dollars into the timber industry, or any timber company in Western Australia.

There is no Government subsidy to the timber industry in Western Australia known to CALM. The cost of reforestation and forest protection by CALM is more than covered by the value of the asset created and returns from log royalties.

When CALM was formed in March 1985 to manage some 18 million hectares of public land in Western Australia, one of the first tasks it was given by the State Government was to institute a series of land management plans incorporating full public participation. CALM decided that the areas of highest priority were the south western forests.

Public comments were invited on a draft set of management plans, then analysed and acted upon. Three management plans, one for each Forest Region, plus the WA Timber and other supporting Strategy documents, which would govern the management of the State's conservation, recreation and timber production activities within forests for the next 10 years, were then prepared. They were approved unanimously by State Cabinet in December 1987.

These far-reaching documents have been hailed by the former Federal Resources Minister, Senator Peter Cook, as being a model for Australian forestry. On the one hand the timber industry has been prepared to invest \$200 million in new equipment, while on the other it been able to pay a three-fold increase in royalty as revenue to the State. This is not a subsidy.

Concurrently, a secure suite of reserves which protect and conserve all the major forest ecosystems has been established.

Colvin made no mention of the system of forest management employed in Western Australian forests. Instead he implied throughout that CALM was secretive, all-powerful, probably corrupt as well as totally incompetent in its work. He proposed no solutions.

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1.	Transcript of ABC 2 Four Corners program, "The Wood for the Trees", at 8.30 pm on Monday, 18 June 1990.
2.	Transcript of Four Corners interview with Dr Syd Shea, 4 June 1990.
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4.	CALM Briefing Paper 2/90 - Timber Royalties.
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.6.	Schedule of log royalties 1/1/90.
7.	Letter from Gerard Early, Acting Director, Australian Heritage Commission, 19 June 1990.
8.	Letter from F J Hingston, Officer in Charge, CSIRO, 2 March 1988.
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	Letter from N J Halse, Chairman, NPNCA to Select Committee on Land Conservation, 2 May 1990.
11.	Press release by NPNCA, 20 June 1990.
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13.	Transcript of part of ABC Regional Radio (Bunbury) morning program with Sharon Kennedy interviewing Mark Colvin.
14.	Media statement by Bob Pearce, Minister for the Environment, 21 June 1990 and letter from John W Stocker, Chief Executive of CSIRO, 21 June 1990.
15.	Glossary from Southern Forest Region Regional Management Plan page 66 illustrating typist's error.
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17.	Letter from Alex Nicholson, Resource Assessment Commission, 8 June 1990.
18.	Letter to Mark Colvin requesting contact with CALM's regional office in Manjimup, 26 May 1990.

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- 19. Letter to Mark Colvin itinerary for Four Corners tour of the forest with CALM, 30 May 1990.
- 20. Letter to Mark Colvin figures requested at the briefing on 28 May 1990 regarding karri sawlog distribution, 30 May 1990.
- 21. CALM Briefing Paper 1/90: "Tree Felling in the Shannon River National Park".
- 22. Letter from J H Towie (licensed surveyor) regarding Shannon National Park boundary, 26 June 1990.
- 23. "Valwood. It turns sows' ears into silk purses."
- 24. Transcript of part of Sattler File Radio 6PR, 26 June 1990.

Appendix 1.

Transcript of ABC 2 Four Corners program, "The Wood for the Trees" 8.30pm, Monday 18 June 1990. TRANSCRIPT OF ABC 2 "FOUR CORNERS" PROGRAM, THE WOOD FOR THE TREES AT 8.30PM ON MONDAY, 18 JUNE 1990

PROF DAVID BELLAMY - BOTANIST

DAVID BELLAMY: This is a karri tree, oh, there you are, and they rank amongst the tallest trees on earth, all gliding to over 70 metres tall.

Now, nature's only endowed very small areas of Western Australia with such precious gifts.

And no wonder tourists flock from all over the world, just to take a look.

But how do we balance the needs of the tourist industry, with conservation and all the other legitimate uses of the forest, like timber production and the jobs that go with it?

Well first we make sure that the jewels of this forest, are set aside untouched.

And an enormous step has been taken in that direction, because thirty per cent of the karri forest, and that includes the best, are now safe in national parks.

And then sixty years ago, this whole area was clearfelled for timber production, and look at it now, a new forest and yet it's one of South Western Australia's greatest tourist attractions, the perfect place, that we can have our cake and eat it too.

ANDREW OLLEY: But will David Bellamy eat his words. After that world premier of his latest role, as Spokesman for the Western Australian Government, some of his old friends in the Conservation Movement might suggest the Pop Botanist can't see the wood for the trees.

Thanks for joining me.

From early school days, the magnificent stands of karri and jarrah, in Australia's south west corner, are planted deep in our collective consciousness.

But our interest has remained largely academic, alongside the passionate concern we've shown for the forests of the Dain-Tree, Eden and the wilds of Tasmania.

Well the south west forests are about to come into their own, despite the soothing words of Dr Bellamy. The Australian Conservation Foundation, and the Conservation Council have strong reservations about the way the West Australian Government is managing our karri and jarrah.

And the new Resources Assessment Commission, which has been having its first hearings in Canberra over the past few days, is about to buy into the argument.

The Commission was set up to adjudicate on issues where resource interests clash with the environment, and the south west forests are high on it's agenda.

Mark Colvin reports.

MARK COLVIN: The jarrah and karri forests of Australia's south west are unique.

It takes hundreds of years for these giant eucalypts to mature. They grow nowhere else but in the south west corner of Western Australia.

Like many of Australia's natural gifts however, these forests are an economic resource as well.

Karri and jarrah are dense strong hardwoods, timber, a valuable cash crop for those who can harvest it.

Now, more than ever, the south west forests are caught in the debate, over how Australia manage it's green resources.

It's not a simple fight about whether or not to log, it's an argument about how to manage the forests; how to balance logging with tourism; and how much to charge for the timber that is logged.

It's about whether clearfelled areas like this, however densely replanted, can ever really replace the natural forests that were there before.

What's at issue, is the forest we leave for future generations.

MURRAY JOHNSON - PEMBERTON GALLERY OWNER

MURRAY JOHNSON: We have just one chance at this resource, that's what I'm saying, and at the moment, we're mining it, we're quarrying it, we're really using it in very, in a very inefficient way.

We're sending railway sleepers to England, in mature jarrah, um, it's madness.

MARK COLVIN: But it's not a question of calling a halt to logging, the argument is about adding value to the wood, and not wasting what's available.

At one extreme, the wood can be used like this, and what was bought for few dollars, can become worth hundreds.

At the other end of the spectrum, pieces of jarrah, the same size as this, are being burned in a new silicon smelter.

The question is, whether the Government which owns the resource, and the timber mills which process it, really know what it's worth?

This is the company in the firing line. Bunnings is solid West Australian establishment, proud of its history, and it's place on the list of the country's top 150 businesses.

This is south west timber country, where the towns are dominated by Bunnings' mills.

In this corner of Australia, Bunnings is king. It's an uneasy head, however, that wears the crown, the company is facing a barrage of accusations, but it's achieved something dangerously close to monopoly.

But Bunnings and its woodchip arm, WACAP, stay on top, because of a cosy relationship with the State Government, and that its profits are subsidised, by the West Australian taxpayer.

PHILIP TOYNE - ACF

PHILIP TOYNE: You see what's happening, is that industries, um, such as WACAP, such as Bunnings, are effectively, wagging the Government dog, and they've become the tail that's wagging the dog there.

And that's a, that's a disaster, I think for the proper ecological management of forest, it's a disaster for the, for the economy of the south west.

I mean, at the same time, as you've seen this vast increase in resource going into export woodchip, you've seen a massive decline in local jobs, as, um, local sawmills closed.

MARK COLVIN: Now for the first time, "Four Corners", has been told, the economics of the forest, are to be scrutinised, by an independent umpire.

Bunnings is fighting to prove that its size and experience are enough to get the best possible use out of the timber resource.

The Resource Assessment Commission, the Federal Government's mew referee between the resource lobby and the Green Movement, wants to know whether logging the south west forest, makes good economic sense?

Historically it's timber extraction, not ecology that's dominated the management of the south west forests.

When this film was made in the thirties, there was no environmental debate, and the economics of the forest, meant only the question, can you make a quid? Even then, using braun and muscle instead of chainsaws, the forestry industry was extracting 100,000 cubic metres of wood a year.

There were more big trees then, no-one disputes that, after World War II, successive building booms, took the cut up to 200,000 and eventually 300,000 cubic metres a year.

The forests left now, are a legacy of those years.

No-one knows what Bunnings pays to transport its timber and woodchips north on the railway. Westrail isn't saying.

But Bunnings and Westrail both acknowledge, that the timber company is the only major use of the line. Without Bunnings, the railway would certainly close.

In economist's terms, that means the infrastructure, the railway itself, amounts to a hidden subsidy, from the Government to the company.

But the real subsidy, according to Bunnings' opponents, is the low, low price Bunnings pays the Department of Conservation and Land Management, or CALM, for its raw material.

PHILIP TOYNE: Part of the, um, black hole that constitutes the CALM accounts, um, since they amalgamated their forest activities, with the, with the super department, including conservation, um, is that we don't know what the tax-payers of Western Australia, are paying by way of subsidy.

But in the decade, prior to that amalgamation in the mid eighties, the Western Australians contributed a hundred million dollars, um;, by way of subsidy, through forest department, um, to the industry, and there's absolutely no indication that that figure has declined and it is likely to be still in place today.

MARK COLVIN: It's the Conservation and Land Management Department, CALM, that owns the timber Bunnings buys, and it's CALM that sets the prices. Even the timber companies' harshest critics, don't blame Bunnings, for taking what's so freely on offer. MURRAY JOHNSON: I mean, they're in business to make a profit, the fault is definitely with Government, to give our timber resource, at a subsidised rate, to a private concern, who uses the wood, much less efficiently, than other milling methods that are available.

MARK COLVIN: Where's the subsidy come from?

MURRAY JOHNSON: By paying around a third for the wood, about a third as much as the local Australian-owned small mills will pay.

MARK COLVIN: Prices are the closest secrets in the South Western Timber Industry. No member of the public has ever seen the list of what Bunnings pays the Conservation and Land Management Department, CALM, for its full range of logs.

What CALM does make public are the target royalties, the theoretical price the Department ought to be paid, for a given grade of timber.

For first grade karri logs, the target royalty is \$34.00 a cubic metre. The few logs that go to auction fetch up to \$70.00, but "Four Corners" has established that Bunnings pays CALM only \$25.32 cents for each cubic metre it buys.

MARK COLVIN: Why aren't you paying the target royalty.

BOB BUNNINGS - MD BUNNINGS FOREST PRODUCTS

BOB BUNNINGS: Target royalty is something which is, as said is a target, that's where CALM would like to go, but to get there, the industry, and that's the total industry, not only our company, would be very hard put to cover that.

MARK COLVIN: So Bunnings believes it's getting no more of a subsidy than other sawmillers, but admits that it would be hard pressed, without the conveniently cheap prices from CALM.

It casts a shadow over the bright forecasts, in the company's own corporate video.

VOICE OVER OF BUNNINGS CORPORATE VIDEO: These people work for one of the strongest and most stable companies in Western Australia.

MARK COLVIN: Just one more economic oddity in an industry where figures are often hard to read.

VOICE OVER OF BUNNINGS CORPORATE VIDEO: Bunnings' strong performance is based on a commitment to providing consistent dividend performance for shareholders.

MARK COLVIN: Despite the secrecy that surrounds pricing, the figures that have leaked out over the years, do seem to point to one conclusion: Bunnings' profits are intimately linked with the favourable prices they pay to the State Government for raw material.

VOICE OVER OF BUNNINGS CORPORATE VIDEO: In the 88, 89 financial year total group sales reached almost 366 million dollars, providing an after tax profit of 18.3 million dollars.

MARK COLVIN: Tony Drake is a small sawmiller, who's been fighting a lone battle for years, against the prices Bunnings pays.

It's educated guess work, that Drake says, he's worked out, just how much CALM subsidy to Bunnings amounts to.

TONY DRAKE: Well I think it was about three years ago, I went through the exercise with the best information as I could gather, and at that time, I quoted in the State press, that it was 20 million dollars, and nobody really disputed the figures.

MARK COLVIN: Twenty million dollars a year?

TONY DRAKE: Yeah, and that was a few years ago and those figures were in The West Australian, and nobody disputed it.

MARK COLVIN: This is Tony Drake's mill. It's a tiny operation, compared to Bunnings, but they claim here, that by giving the logs old fashioned individual care, they get more out of the timber than Bunnings with all its high tech machinery.

The accusation is, that Bunnings isn't just getting the lion's share of the logs at a favourable price, it's not getting the best out of them. If they improved the yield, they'd need less trees cut down in the forest.

For years, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, CALM, denied this mill access to first grade logs. When the rules finally changed, Tony Drake tested the first batch of seven he was allocated.

TONY DRAKE: It wasn't the best recovery we could have got, because at the time, we were cutting to an order, which meant that we didn't cut any pieces of wood thicker than one and half inches.

And all the wood that we did cut was sold immediately with that order, and it came out with about sixty per cent recovery.

MARK COLVIN: Now out of those logs, what do you reckon that Bunnings would have been getting?

TONY DRAKE: Well they're, the figures show that they get about forty per cent recovery on average, and actually I reckon that this parcel was a below average parcel of logs.

MARK COLVIN: Bunnings reacted angrily to this claim, angrily enough to get their wires crossed.

In Perth, Bob Bunning, first told the press that Drake's figures were mathematically impossible.

Then he told us, you could get sixty per cent, but only out of premium logs, a category of exceptional wood, well above the first grade logs that Drake used.

Down in the south west however, Bunnings' Manager, Ed Valom, was telling a different story. He'd done a test on GP logs, an industry term for the first grade, not the premium, and despite the boss saying it was mathematically impossible, he'd done it.

Tony Drake says he can get sixty per cent out of a log that you only get forty per cent out of.

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ED VOLOM - BUNNINGS REGIONAL MANAGER

ED VALOM: That's absolute rubbish, Tony Drake can get sixty per cent out of a GP, out of a, the top end of the resource, the same as the logs that I'm standing in front of now.

For interests sake, I did a milling trial last weekend, I put exactly the same sort of log through, and I got 65 per cent.

MARK COLVIN: If the timber industry itself appears unable to agree on the basics, the Government Regulator might be expected to be more competent.

The Regulator in this case is CALM, the Conservation and Land Management Department, which does the jobs of both the environment and forestry departments.

The clearing work you see here, is a hasty job of tidying away one of CALM's own little mistakes, they were burning and bulldozing logs left over, after an illegal tree felling operation in a national park.

It happened, according to the Executive Director, by mistake.

SYD SHEA - CALM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SYD SHEA: The Shannon National Park is an unusual National Park, in that the boundary is not a road or an easy-to-find line, it's the catchment, and so, to accurately define the catchment, is very difficult when you get into the area where the ridges are quite mild.

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BETH SCHULTZ - WA CONSERVATION COUNCIL

BETH SCHULTZ: There is a forest reference tree there, it's HY over 89 over 1. It's clearly marked, there's a forestry white X painted on it, which shows that they knew where it was too.

And then you drive from that, down to the boundary, using a map, and it's about 750 or 800 metres south of that tree, to where the boundary would be, just simply using a map and an odometer.

MARK COLVIN: The CALM officer supervising the site of the illegal felling in the national park, was understandably shy of our camera.

Understandably, because not only had trees been cut, but they'd been taken away, anonymously without the regulation brand from the faller's hammer.

SYD SHEA: They were branded with chalk because the tree marker at the time had lost his axe, and it's normal practise to allow them to chalk the logs as they did.

MARK COLVIN: That's another breach of the Act though isn't it?

SYD SHEA: It's not, no, it's not, that's completely and utterly incorrect.

MARK COLVIN: Breach of the regulations?

SYD SHEA: No, it's not a breach of the regulations, it is provided that the faller, is given the instruction, that the fact that he temporarily lost his axe, that he marks them with chalk, that is quite legitimate.

MARK COLVIN: Western Australia's forest regulations, obtained by "Four Corners" make no such provision. Regulation 18 says that, "every faller shall immediately brand the stump with his distinctive brand".

Regulation 23 says, "unbranded log timber may not be removed", yet that's what happened in the Shannon National Park logging. Nothing in the regulations lets forestry officers over-ride these rules.

BETH SCHULTZ: This is excuse number two, the faller lost his hammer, well I think it's the first time in history that a faller has lost his hammer.

I mean he's losing his meal ticket if he loses his hammer, and the forest regulations say quite clearly, that every faller shall stamp, brand every stump and every log, immediately upon falling the tree.

MARK COLVIN: Western Australia's forests have natural predators as well as human ones. This fungus, <u>Armillaria</u> luteobubalina, is known to some as karri dieback.

It thrives on the dead timber that's left after logging and there's concern about its effect on young karri trees in regrowth forests.

Jarrah dieback, caused by another fungus, has already ravaged huge areas.

To fight the spread of dieback, CALM has quarantined parts of the forest, it's a big problem.

The map shows CALM's own scientists' estimates of how far the dieback has already spread, and those same scientists say considerably more mapping needs to be done.

Yet there seem to be gaping holes in the administration of the quarantine laws. What ever the regulations say, the policing of the rules has big problems.

I really shouldn't have been able to do that. Where I'm standing now is an unrestricted access area, anybody can come and go.

But behind me there is a Disease Risk Area, DRA, the bureaucrats' euphemism for what they used to call quarantine.

Now, this gate here is supposed to be padlocked at all times, especially to stop the logging trucks coming and going. But as you can see it's been ripped out and not too recently by the looks of it.

All the indications are that the rules, which are supposed to prevent the spread of dieback further through the forests, are being continually ignored and flouted.

SYD SHEA: Now it's true to say, because it's a very large area, and that we cannot patrol it every day, that we will get vandals, and that gates will be broken down.

But in the end effect, it means and remains the most significant contribution to control of what everybody said, less than ten years ago, was the disease that would destroy the whole forest, that anyone could have imagined, and we're very proud of it.

MARK COLVIN: CALM's accidental logging, we saw earlier, in the Shannon National Park, happened right next to a dieback quarantine area.

The vehicle is now leaving the national park, and is entering the quarantine area. There is no sign of the regulation washdown, or any other precaution. Even faced with the evidence, CALM responds with flat denial.

SYD SHEA: That is total nonsense, because I was particularly aware of the fact that you were filming out there, I was particularly aware of the fact that the operation was going on, the operation was going on in the most stringent hygiene conditions.

As you said, I'm a dieback expert, and I suggest that you might be an expert ABC Interviewer, but you're not an expert on hygiene management.

MARK COLVIN: More than a century of logging has made massive inroads into the karri and jarrah forests of the south est.

CALM's policies now, are designed to make sure that more than enough trees are planted, to replace any timber taken. In fact, they're going further, with big efforts to reafforest cleared land.

But the debate is about what they plant in its place.

ALAN WALKER - CALM'S REGIONAL MANAGER

ALAN WALKER: All around us there are trees which are 55 years old, from logging back in the mid 1930's. And right here on this old log landing, there are trees which were planted just last year.

MARK COLVIN: CALM's foresters believe their system of clearfelling large areas, then replanting them, is the only way of ensuring sufficient timber production for the future.

And they claim that doing it that way, rather than just taking a few trees at a time, is not going to harm the ecosystem.

Alan Walker is CALM's Regional Manager for the South West.

ALAN WALKER: The philosophy in the karri forest is based on two important principles.

One is sustained yield of sawlogs into the future to meet the public demand. The other is multiple use of the forest, so that an area of karri forest can be used simultaneously for a variety of purposes.

Not only timber production, but also recreation, water production and conservation of flora and fauna.

VOICE OVER PROMOTIONAL VIDEO: Sustained yield is the corner stone of the State's timber production strategy

MARK COLVIN: What's best for timber production, may not be best for the forest.

CALM scientists say a third of forest birds need hollows, which only form in trees 120 years or older, yet the policy is to log after only 100 years.

VOICE OVER PROMOTIONAL VIDEO: of all logging operations.

MARK COLVIN: Western Australia is one State where the Department responsible for conserving trees is also the Department for chopping them down.

The Department was formed in 1985, it put the National Parks and Wildlife Service under the same roof as the Forestry Department.

CALM's critics say the interests of the environment have never recovered.

ALEX SYME - FARMER

ALEX SYME: Well from the formation of the Department, the numbers of employees consisted of about 1400 employees from the Forests Department, and around about 100 people from National Parks and Wildlife and Fisheries and Fauna.

MARK COLVIN: What was the effect of that in terms of the balance of power in a bureaucratic sense?

ALEX SYME: Well the Department is dominated by production forest thinking foresters.

MARK COLVIN: Now what are the foresters doing here?

ALEX SYME: They've taken away a small quantity of jarrah for sawlog. They've taken away almost all the marri trees for woodchip logs, and left an awful lot of good timber that's going to be burnt and wasted.

The trees that are left standing, as you can see, are dying, they've been poisoned.

MARK COLVIN: Alex Syme is a farmer who's been leading the environmentalists' push against CALM's policy in the south western forests.

He's not against logging, he's against the way it's done. Syme gets angry at scenes like this, where CALM has thinned a stand of jarrah, then poisoned all the trees they left.

ALEX SYME: They're on the way out. It's called jarrah stand improvement, if you can believe that, and a small quantity of jarrah

MARK COLVIN: He calls it the chemical axe.

ALEX SYME: It's virtual clearfelling, the canopy is effectively removed, by this, um, by killing these trees that are left standing, and when you consider that this operation covers, in the region of 50 square kilometres, per year, in State forests in WA, yes it's a major concern.

MARK COLVIN: Fifty square kilometres a year are going to this technique alone?

ALEX SYME: That's right, that's what went last year, and this year looks like it will be more.

MARK COLVIN: How much more of that could the forests take?

ALEX SYME: Well, how many years have we got left? The total area of forest logged in WA each year is around about 300 square kilometres in jarrah, that's in the forest logged with, who were standing in here, before it was logged.

It will soon, the old forest will soon be gone.

MARK COLVIN: Visually at least, the clearfelling of the karri forest is even more disturbing.

ALEX SYME: Well what's happened here 'is; this is a clearfelled karri forest, and it's, everything that they wanted they've taken away and they've burnt the balance.

This particular coupe here, is an area which has originally been left as a corridor for the wildlife, between two of the coupes you can see on either side of it, and they've taken it out.

MARK COLVIN: CALM believes its policies are right, not just for the timber industry, but for the environment.

But it's not just, the conservationists who question the Department's competence. There's deep disquiet in the scientific community, about a CALM proposal to log in previously sacrosanct road and river reserves.

The narrow strips of forest, along roads and streams are supposed to be corridors for the forest's wildlife, free passage for small animals, between patches of unlogged timber.

GRAHAM CHITTLEBOROUGH - EX CHIEF RESEARCH SCIENTIST, WA

GRAHAM CHITTLEBOROUGH: The professionals, the scientists were not asked for their opinion, the executive called them together and said, the decision is, we're going to halve stream and road reserve widths, and we're even going to take some logs out of the half that's left in selective logging. You will go out and like this decision, you'll justify it, and you'll tell the public that this is a legitimate and correct decision.

MARK COLVIN: How did this

GRAHAM CHITTLEBOROUGH: Now how did professionals manage to work in that sort of situation?

MARK COLVIN: Senior CALM officers say that, foresters or not, they're scientists too, and what's more, scientists who care about the environment.

Above all, they say, CALM has the expertise to handle the job.

How can you be so sure that you know that much about the ecosystem?

ALAN WALKER - CALM

ALAN WALKER: Twenty five years of research into the plants and animals of the karri forest, done by scientists who are highly qualified in what they do, have shown us that, in fact all of the plant species and all of the animal species, which occur in the old growth karri forest are represented in the regrowth karri forest.

So there is absolutely no cause for concern, in respect to the conservation of flora and fauna.

GRAHAM CHITTLEBOROUGH: I can't imagine the scientists within CALM saying they understand the ecosystem enough to manage it.

MARK COLVIN: Do we know enough about the forest ecosystem to be as confident as CALM is, about managing it?

GRAHAM CHITTLEBOROUGH: I think for timber production purposes, they have a fairly good base for working. But in terms of trying to sustain an ecosystem, which, can be kept in perpetuity, with the increasing pressures, not only of forestry and woodchip extraction, but of, other uses, tourism and of wildflower gatherers and all the other competing forces, then I think we're still on the learning curve. **MARK COLVIN:** What ever the scientific arguments, money talks louder. The need to feed the timber industry's appetite for wood, is abound to be a driving force in CALM's thinking about how to manage the forest.

Much of the remaining old growth timber in the south west forests, is now locked away in national parks. The creation of new parks, has increased the pressure to over-ride environmental arguments in logging the State forests that are left.

Bunnings say, that in plants like this, they're adding more value to the timber, but they still need vast quantities of raw material.

That demand has demonstrably influenced CALM, for instance in its plan to halve the wildlife corridors along roads and rivers.

In the Department's own newspaper CALM's Executive Director wrote that one consideration in the plan to log those reserves along roads and streams, was how to maintain contractual arrangements with the timber industry, following the decision to reserve the Shannon Basin as a national park.

Now, however, he denies that that's even a consideration.

SYD SHEA: No, we don't need more timber at all, no, what the Government says to us, and the community has said to us, for our timber strategy and our forest management plans, that we struck the right balance.

Now if in fact the Government decides or the community through the Government decides, that they want to change the ratio, then we will increase the reserve system.

But I've got to tell you, can I, can I

MARK COLVIN: You said yourself in CALM News that one of the reasons behind this, was that there was a need for more timber.

SYD SHEA: No I didn't, no I didn't say that at all.

VOICE OVER PROMOTIONAL VIDEO: CALM has adopted a consensus approach, recognising that success depends on community support.

MARK COLVIN: The glossy image CALM shows the world, is one of openness, and accessibility. In real life, the Department maintains an iron-grip on information.

Even the Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra's watch dog on our natural treasures, can't get the data it needs.

RECEPTIONIST AT CALM: Good afternoon, Conservation and Land Management.

MARK COLVIN: Paul Llewellyn, was one Heritage Commission consultant who tried.

His task was to identify heritage areas in the south west forest, he needed CALM to give him facts and figures, about the forest it controls.

PAUL LLEWELLYN: where, I was in Manjimup, which is in the south west, and I called into the local CALM office, to, on a courtesy call, to say I was in the area and I was doing some heritage work, and, you know, I didn't want information but I just wanted to tell them I was there.

I then proceeded, like for a one and half or two hour drive down the South West Highway to Walpole, and when I arrived at Walpole, the Officer in Charge there said, look I'm sorry I can't talk to you, I have a Ministerial directive not to talk to you.

And clearly what had happened, was that in the time that it took me to drive down there, they'd phoned up the Minister, in the head office, and there'd been this directive not to talk to me.

MARK COLVIN: Fast work.

PAUL LLEWELLYN: Fast work.

MARK COLVIN: Paul Llewellyn, literally had to go into orbit to get the information he needed. Some of the data he was after was obtainable, by careful inspection of satellite images.

But a great deal of what the Heritage Commission needed to know, was simply inaccessible. CALM didn't want to release it, so it stayed a secret.

PAUL LLEWELLYN: The information simply wasn't made available, and I made it clear, throughout the report. The report as a matter of fact, has never been released.

It was supposed to be a public document, or, well it was supposed to be a document directed to the Heritage Commission, and then for public consumption.

And it was intended to draw together all the nominations of National Estate Forest, into one coherent statement, because that hadn't ever been done in Western Australia.

As a result, the report simply didn't see the light of day, and I've still got copies on my desk right here.

MARK COLVIN: Even where there's obvious heritage value, forest is not immune.

This is Hawke Block, interim list by the Heritage Commission. These are small regrowth trees, because just after it was listed, four years ago, this area was clearfelled.

SYD SHEA: Now the Australian Heritage Commission, has said, quite clearly to us, in correspondence to my Minister, and to me, that they're not in the business of land use decision making. What they're saying, is listing things for the National Estate.

MARK COLVIN: With respect, the average Joe, as you put it, surely would assume, that if something is listed as National Heritage, then you wouldn't clearfell it?

SYD SHEA: Well that's, "Four Corners" can really do a great service to the average person in the community, and explain what the Australian Heritage Commission says, quite clearly. MARK COLVIN: But you've told me what the Australian Heritage Commission says you can do within the law.

What I'm saying is, common sense surely would dictate, that if it's part of the National Heritage, you wouldn't go in and clearfell it?

SYD SHEA: Common misunderstanding.

MARK COLVIN: Common misunderstanding, or common sense? The Australian Heritage Commission, is still trying to improve relations with CALM, and they declined to be interviewed on camera.

"Four Corners" understands however, that the Commission has been waiting for two years, for information on areas on the south west.

The Commission is concerned, angry and frustrated over delays in cooperation from CALM, they're not the only ones.

JOHN BRIGGS: So we're looking for all the more features that are available at the time, also one wants to record habitat information

MARK COLVIN: John Briggs, and John Leigh, are CSIRO Botanists, who compile Australia's most comprehensive and respected register of the country's rarest flora.

But publication of their major reference work was held up for 18 months because CALM wouldn't cooperate.

Only Western Australia insisted on putting in it's own lower estimates for endangered and vulnerable plants.

JOHN LEIGH: There are approximately 1400 species as a real threat, and from Western Australia and over a thousand of those have been categorised by CALM as being poorly known.

Now we believe that the information is perhaps not as deficient as that.

MARK COLVIN: And if they are classified the way you have them classified, then they'll obviously have to get more attention than they're getting now.

JOHN LEIGH: Well we would hope that would be the case.

MARK COLVIN: The two CSIRO Botanists were also forced to leave pages of blank columns, where they should have recorded the locations of Western Australia's threatened flora.

It's not just a dry academic argument, it has profound affects, on preserving rare species.

Briggs and Leigh quote figures showing that 15 per cent of the world's endangered plants are in Australia, and 45 per cent of those are in the west. Obstruction from CALM is a real problem.

JOHN LEIGH: Yes it has real practical value, it relates to the planning and environmental impact statements, throughout Australia. For example, if a species is categorised nationally as endangered, then that particular area on which that species grows, should receive special attention, and, um, development should be planned sympathetically.

MARK COLVIN: So, if there are blank spaces on huge amounts of information, if there are disagreements about what's endangered, what's rare, what's extinct, then that's going to have practical effects too?

JOHN LEIGH: Yes I do believe so, for example, we believe that the species which are coded as endangered and vulnerable in Western Australia, should receive the highest priority for survey and research.

SYD SHEA: Within Western Australia, there is a very, very complex flora and fauna, and I guess, you're probably aware, since you've been here, Western Australians are very, very proud of their knowledge, and I suppose it's fair enough to say

MARK COLVIN: Well why not share the knowledge with the CSIRO, of all people?

SYD SHEA: Well we do, we do share the knowledge, I dispute entirely that we have not shared the knowledge.

MARK COLVIN: But why then, has the CSIRO's report got blanks in it where

SYD SHEA: Well, has, has the CSIRO complained to you, that CALM has in any way, withheld information?

MARK COLVIN: Some scientists believe, that if they don't get the kind of cooperation they need from CALM, it's because they're effectively talking a different language.

According to this school of thought, CALM even sees basic definitions, through timber coloured spectacles.

Let me give you a quote, a CALM quote, "the definition of a mature forest, is the state at which a stand best fulfils the main purpose, of loading onto a haulage vehicle".

Now is that an environmentalist's definition, or is it a forester's definition?

ALAN WALKER: That's a well known misprint, in a document, which has been corrected, and I think it's really irrelevant to raise it.

MARK COLVIN: Why?

ALAN WALKER: Because it was a misprint, it was never intended to be there.

MARK COLVIN: Well what was it intended to say?

ALAN WALKER: I think, um, without knowing the author of that document, um, what it would have been intended to say was, that a mature forest, is a forest which has grown to an age, which allows all of the values that a forest provides, to be optimised.

From timber production, through to the other values of recreation and wildlife and conservation.

MARK COLVIN: So it was a mistake that it should have gone into the Road, River and Stream Reserve Report?

ALAN WALKER: I think the evidence has shown that this was a misprint, and that it's been corrected subsequently.

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MARK COLVIN: It's an awful lot of words to have a misprint, a misprint is usually what happens when, you know, one letter gets, or one word gets put out of place.

ALAN WALKER: Yes, I think it's really trivial that we're talking about this, but if you want to know the exact reason, the typist, looked down to the same set of words, further down the page, and found that she had, which often happens with typists, is that they pick up on a sentence, which was relating to a previous one above.

And, um and that's the explanation for how that misprint occurred.

MARK COLVIN: There's no denying that CALM has been highly unrealistic about the logs it grows.

Until very recently, logs like this, were left in the forest to rot or be burnt, you couldn't use them, even if you wanted to, CALM just refused to sell them.

Tony Drake tried for six years to get hold of these residue logs. It was only after he'd invested tens of thousands of dollars in a special horizontal handsaw of his own devising, that CALM relented.

Increasingly frustrated, by the way he's been frozen out, while Bunnings pays cheap royalties, Tony Drake now says the Government has to act courageously, and make them pay a fair price.

TONY DRAKE: I mean, Bunnings have said things in the past, like if you increase the royalties that much, it'll mean, this mill will close, and hundreds of people will be out of a job.

And the Government's not prepared to take that on board. They, they've called their bluff.

MARK COLVIN: What would they, what would happen if they did call the bluff?

TONY DRAKE: Well, I mean, if the Government was silly enough to be so radical, as to do it all in one hit, I mean, it might happen, I mean the worst that then would follow, would be that you'd have hundreds of people unemployed for a few months, until CALM decided to sell that wood to some new industry people, who would then re-employ the ones that were put off work. To get higher recoveries, you actually have to employ more people in the long term.

MARK COLVIN: After decades of protection, Bunnings is extremely resistant to the idea of having to pay a free market price for timber.

BOB BUNNING: Well, you've got a total uncertainty, if for a source, every year, the future of your business depended upon you putting up your hand at an auction, you wouldn't have a business.

But, what about the people, you know, our company employs, 3500 people, and about 2500 depend upon forest industry.

MARK COLVIN: The jobs that are supported by protecting the industry, are exceptionally lowly paid.

The Timber Industry Award is one of Australia's lowest. Many Bunnings' workers are below the poverty line.

It means Federal Government Family Welfare Payments, topping up the incomes of the poorest, amount to yet another hidden subsidy for the industry.

Western Australia's Parks and Wildlife, like Western Australia's trees, are effectively in the hands of one man, Syd Shea, a public servant, who's already out-lasted several of his Ministers.

Shea is widely acknowledged as the real power in the State's forests. He wields considerable clout in the ruling Labor Party, and he has the politician's knack of kissing babies when there's a camera about.

But when the Resource Assessment Commission comes over from Canberra, Syd Shea may have under-estimated what he's dealing with.

SYD SHEA: We've had the Resource Assessment Commission, not all the Commissioners, but a Commissioner and their staff, and we took them through the forest, much of the forest that you saw today, they acclaim what they saw.

MARK COLVIN: They acclaimed it?

SYD SHEA: Yes.

MARK COLVIN: That's news to the Commission. Their Perth public hearings won't even begin till September.

The Commission told "Four Corners" that it had not reached a conclusion, or issued a report, on the way the forests are managed in Western Australia.

When the Resource Assessment Commission spotlights the forests of the south west, CALM is going to have to justify its logging policies, like it or not.

The Commission is not there to make the judgement of Solomon, trees or jobs.

Its task is to decide whether the use of the forests is in the country's interest, and especially whether it makes economic sense.

What CALM is going to have prove, is that pouring millions of dollars of tax-payers money each year, into a giant, State subsidised timber company, is the right way to manage the precious hardwood resources of Australia's south west.

ANDREW OLLEY: Mark Colvin in the wild west. His story was inflaming local sensitivities, incidentally, even before the script was complete.

The South West Timber Workers Union, which covers many Bunnings workers in the area, last week declared a black ban on Tony Drake, the lone sawmiller in Mark's report.

The reason, his participation in tonight's "Four Corners", together with some statements he's made to the local media, about forest management.

The Union did seem to relent, after an editorial in The West Australian, condemning abuse of union power.

But their Secretary told "Four Corners" he supported the black ban, and it could be reimposed.

Syd Shea, the Departmental Head, has also taken a dim view of the program. In anticipation, he put out a press release today, saying he feared it would not show the same depth and insight, as a program screened by the local commercial station last night.

According to Dr Shea, the Sydney based "Four Corners" crew, arrived in Western Australia for a fleeting visit, spent most of the time with extreme preservationists, and appear to have written the script before they left Sydney.

Well now that the story has in fact been completed, you can be your own judge.

See you next Monday night at 8.30 pm, until then, good night.

Appendix 2.

Transcript of Four Corners interview with Dr Syd Shea, 4 June 1990.

FOUR CORNERS

interview with

Dr Syd Shea

4th June 1990

ABC INTERVIEWER: Sell me your department – how does CALM differ in its timber management from other states?

DR. SHEA: I think you'd put CALM in the context of its whole operations. We're quite a unique department in that we manage 18 million hectares of land throughout Western Australia - from crocodiles in the North to beautiful marine parks to Karri forests which you've seen, to the desert - and so it's an integrated agency

And I guess I wouldn't make any comparisons with other agencies in Eastern Australia except that basic one - but I can say what we're committed to with our department, is the concept of public participation in deciding what should happen to that land.

We take a very, might be a different view from some people I certainly strongly feel that we're in a very privileged position with managers with skills, but our job is to provide professional management. We don't manage the land for ourselves, we manage it for the community.

It's true to say that there are a whole range of different constituencies within the community -but it's the job of the politicians, the government of the day in the end to tell us what sort of management they want. Now, we can help them to get public participation.

It's very important point of our philosophy that we have in our department -

1. Professionalism which I'm very proud of!

2. Commitment - to the principle that this land is the peoples' land, and what they want is what we do.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Do you think you differ from other states in Australia?

DR. SHEA: Well I don't know, I'm not terribly familiar - I know that we differ to the extent that we are an integrated agency, and this is a tremendous advantage because we can have a tremendous diversity of skills.

You know for example, in our Corporate Executive we sit around the table, I've got the access to Biologists, top-class Communication experts, Foresters, Marine Scientists - and that flows right through the organisation, so that for example, we're currently carrying out a program in the Desert which I think is the most exciting conservation program that's probably this century.

And, it's only been made possible because we've combined the skills of good administrators, superb Biologists, people who can work with Aboriginals, and people who can manage fire. Now all that comes from all different parts of the Department.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Yet, in the South-west Forests in particular, you are beginning to come under fairly concentrated fire from the Conservation Movement.

DR. SHEA: Well, it depends what you define the Conservation Movement is - the other thing that I think it is important to realise, and I think in the video that we showed you with David Bellamy's assessment of what we're about, is the first thing he says is that is requirement to meet all the different constituencies.

The second thing he says is that it's important in the first step to set aside the jewels of forest, and we've done that -

ABC INTERVIEWER: Jarrah forests....

The ACF is showing every signs of making the

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DR. SHEA: Can I just finish....? Can I finish David Bellamy's trilogy of things because it's very important? The third thing is, and it's key to this question that you asked me is that the way to reconcile these different and often conflicting constituencies is by good management.

So, while it's true to say, and quite frankly it would be very sad if we didn't have people disagreeing within themselves and also with the Department, I don't think it's fair to say that the Conservation Movement in block is opposed to us, certainly cause I don't define the Conservation Movement very narrowly.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Is it fair to say, as David Bellamy says then that the Greenies are behind you?

DR. SHEA: Well certainly I think a very significant proportion of, depending on what you call a "Greenie" - I call a Greenie a person, an ordinary Joe who's concerned about using the forests and is concerned about future generations.

Now if you combine those two things, then to me, he's a "Greenie", or a "Conservationist", and those people I think – support us in the fact as reflected in the response to our Forest Management Plans. We had a fantastic response from a whole range of people from the "brown" side if you like, but also through all to the general community the "green side.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But the fact remains that the ACF is making the Jarrah Forests a major plank in its strategy for the coming year or two.

DR. SHEA: I mean, I'm not familiar I'm sorry, I don't delve into the politics of the ACF. What I can tell you is that my responsibilities as a public servant is to the people of Western Australia today, and the future.

And certainly the feed-back that we get from the people that use the forests, and certainly recreationists and certainly the conservationists, we get very tremendous positive feed-back, but also we obviously get people who disagree, but that's their right, and of course it keeps us on our toes. I'm a great believer in tremendous dictum is that all power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Now the solution to that is, both for politicians and bureaucrats, like you and me, is to have – and you're a bureaucrat too – the ABC is a bureacracy –

ABC INTERVIEWER: I'm a humble reporter.

DR. SHEA: I'm a humble CALM officer, very good, but we're bureaucrats, and the answer to that dictum is to have, a very good number of people outside who intelligently criticise - I think it would be very sad if we didn't have that - and in part of that criticism of course some of the negative things come home but, as I say, when they stop that's when I worry.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Do you welcome criticism?

DR. SHEA: Oh certainly. I think it's very healthy. I welcome criticism within the organisation, and I certainly welcome it outside, and I think you're in a "fools paradise" if you believe that you're going to have in a democratic society, universal support for what your doing.

I mean, after all at the end of the day Jesus Christ, had four of his disciples didn't support him. Now it would be really egotistical of us to believe that we could carry everybody with us.

But what we've got to be is honest, and what we've got to do is listen - and I certainly listen, I mean I'd like to say publicly that I am honest.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Why then is it that the Australian Heritage Commission, the CSIRO have found it difficult to get information out of the CALM?

DR. SHEA: Well I don't believe that's true. Can I deal with the CSIRO, I mean I worked with the CSIRO over a period of 20 years – I have very close relationships with the CSIRO. Dr Maurice Mulcahy was a Senior Officer in charge of the forest section of the CSIRO when I was researcher, and he can testify to the fact that we set up the most wonderful co-operative program.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But let's look at the record - the CSIRO's report on Rare and Endangered Species was held-up for eighteen months because they couldn't get the facts and figures out of you, and then,

DR SHEA: But -

ABC INTERVIEWER: - and then, when it finally did come out -

DR. SHEA: But I'm sorry -

ABC INTERVIEWER: - there was a different type of set of figures -

DR. SHEA: I'm sorry I -

ABC INTERVIEWER: - there were blanks all over the report.

DR. SHEA: I'm sorry I don't think that's the record - I don't think that's the record at all.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Are you telling me - ?

DR. SHEA: Well the record simply is, is that certainly before anything gets to me is that scientists will argue about the scientific validity of a proposition. There's no censorship in terms of the administration.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Why has Western Australian been different from all the other states?

DR. SHEA: I'll tell you one of the reasons why Western Australia might have been different in this issue, I don't certainly know the details, is that in Western Australia there is a very, very complex flora and fauna.

And I guess you'll probably know since you've been here, Western Australians are very very proud of their knowledge and I suppose it's fair enough to say -

ABC INTERVIEWER: Well why not share the knowledge of the CSIRO?

DR. SHEA: But we do - we do share the knowledge - now I dispute entirely that we have not shared the knowledge -

ABC INTERVIEWER: But why then has the CSIRO's report got blanks in it?

DR. SHEA: As I said, has the CSIRO complained to you that CALM has in any way withheld information I'd like to see it?

ABC INTERVIEWER: We'll be talking to the CSIRO about it indeed.

DR. SHEA: Ask them - just ask them, because if there is, it certainly hasn't come to my notice, as I say, look at my track record as a scientist before in my previous life, I worked very closely with the CSIRO.

In fact, even today we were working very closely with the CSIRO on a whole range of projects, and at the administrative level, I'm looking forward to working with the CSIRO to see if we can get a Co-operative Research Centre here in Western Australia.

You see, one of the problems I've got to say about the local politics, with respect to CSIRO, is not, that we don't want to work with them, we think we've been short changed, we don't get enough CSIRO research over here, we want more!

ABC INTERVIEWER: Look at the Australian Heritage Commission now. A few years ago we had a man called Paul Llewellyn who was working for them, trying to draw-up a register of heritage areas, and he says that there is a total lack of co-operation from CALM. **DR. SHEA:** Well I think that is totally incorrect, because there was a stage where my Minister said, because the Australian Heritage Commission had not even advised my Minister, that they'd hire a Consultant, there was a stage where - he was concerned about that.

But I've got to tell you that the Chairman of the Australian Heritage Commission, Mr Galvin, in the office with my Minister acknowledged that that wasn't the way to go, and subsequently, we are in fact right now working with the Australian Heritage Commission to get a proper, professional evaluation.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Why has that process of consultation with the Heritage Commission taken two years?

DR SHEA: Well I think the Heritage Commission had lots of things to do.

ABC INTERVIEWER:

But it's nothing to do with CALM foot-dragging

DR. SHEA: No, not at all. The Australian Heritage Commission came back quite recently just several weeks ago, and we had a very constructive and positive meeting in seeing ways in which we can approach resolving their requirements for data, and certainly we saw advantage in that.

Just the other day I had a letter from the Manager of the Australian Heritage Commission - I don't see any difficulty at all, but if there were, the Australian Heritage Commission, reflected in its increase in fundings, had great difficulties because of the demands that have been placed on it, listing large numbers in the areas to meet all of its requirements.

But as far as this State's concerned, provided that the exercise is done with mutual co-operation, which it is, in contrast with initial stages when the Consultant was placed without any knowledge of the State government, so you can understand the State government being a bit concerned that someone who's working in the State without their knowledge - but that has been acknowledged by Mr Galvin as an incorrect approach, and we accept that and we're working very positively with them.

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ABC INTERVIEWER: Isn't the result of the delay on Heritage Listing, that you can go on cutting? For instance, we've seen the result of the clear-felling a few years ago in Hawke Block in an interim Heritage Area. We've seen just very recent cutting in Beavis West.

DR. SHEA: I'll go over last one first, because Beavis West was not a logging operation to per se - I mean what that operation in Beavis West was about, was to protect it.

It's an operation where we take down stag trees so that we don't get dangerous wildfires.

Can I then deal with the question of National Estate - the areas that are listed in the National Estate we are certainly logging in.

But I have clear numerous letters from the Australian Heritage Commission which says quite clearly that logging in National Estate areas is not necessarily something that concerns them -

ABC INTERVIEWER: Nobody's saying that it's illegal - but should they be clear-felling on the Hawke Block, could it become...

DR. SHEA: - No that's not the point, but you've missed the point there. The Australian Heritage Commission says, and in correspondence to me says, that because an area is even listed on the National Estate, it does not necessarily preclude logging.

ABC INTERVIEWER: So you've got carte blanche even in interim heritage areas?

DR. SHEA: We've got carte blanche as I understand, the Australian Heritage Commission in their correspondence with me, to do anything which doesn't impact on National Estate values.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Then how could clear-felling not impact on National Estate values?

DR. SHEA: Well I mean, ask the Australian Heritage Commission, because in their writing to us, they said quite clearly, that the listing of an area for the National Estate is not a land use decision.

You see, Mark what we've been through in Western Australia, is the most comprehensive land use planning exercise in the forest areas ever carried out in Australia, with masses of public participation.

Now we think we've fulfilled and the State government certainly thinks it's fulfilled its obligation to involve the public to decide on the land use issues.

Now the Australian Heritage Commission has said quite clearly to us in correspondence to my Minister and to me, that they're not in the business of land use decision making – what they're saying, is listing things from the National Estate.

ABC INTERVIEWER: With respect, the average "Joes" as you put it, surely would assume that if something is listed as National Heritage, then you wouldn't clear-fell it.

DR. SHEA: That's - you can - Four Corners can really do a great service to the average person in the community and explain what the Australian Heritage Commission says quite clearly.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But you've told me what the Australian Heritage Commission says you can do within the law - what I'm saying is, commonsense, surely would dictate.

DR. SHEA: No, no

ABC INTERVIEWER: If it's part of the National Heritage you wouldn't go in and clear-fell it.

DR. SHEA: Common misunderstanding. You see, the whole purpose of land use plans was to set aside, as David Bellamy said, the jewels. Now, we've done that - in the Southern Forest where you've been -

ABC INTERVIEWER: - That's it, there won't be any more national forests, national parks.

DR. SHEA: No, I didn't say that at all. I was going to say that as a consequence of our land use management plans, in the last three or four years, we've increased the national park estate by 500%.

Now we've been through that process, now the point I would like to make to you in terms of the Australian Heritage Commission, is that what ever might be a misunderstanding in the community, the Australian Heritage Commission is the one that sets the rules and the definitions.

And it says quite clearly that their exercise isn't a land use planning one, we've done that. They are listing areas. So it's quite different.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Let's look at your Land Use Plan – let's look at the cold question of cutting in State forests.

Now its the Karri and Jarrah an extremely valuable resource - everybody agrees. You would assume that you wouldn't be cutting down that resource without good economic reasons. What are those reasons?

DR. SHEA: The economic reasons for cutting down the Jarrah and Karri forests – I think the first thing, we've got to do is go back into our basic principles and how we operate the forest production side of forest management.

The first thing you've got to do is to say, as David Bellamy has said, is that you've got to set aside areas which will remain untouched – as David Bellamy says, "the jewels of the forest are to be set aside", we've done that.

The other important thing you've got to then say is this, that where you're carrying out forest production in the remainder of the forest, it is only one of a number of other uses.

We have the policy of multiple use - and that's terribly important in terms of preserving the conservation estate, because by having embedded, the national parks and the nature reserves embedded in the forest, surrounded by forest, which is sympathetically managed, it's a tremendous advantage for conservation.

For example, contrast is in the Wheatbelt, where you have remnant vegetation and you have real problems in sustaining the ecosystems in those reserve areas.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Let me drag you back to the economic issues.

DR. SHEA: Sure, but I think it's important to put our management in that context.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Let me take you back to the economic issue -

DR. SHEA: Yeah, can I tell you -

ABC INTERVIEWER: - is logging intended to make a profit in Western Australia?

DR. SHEA: Can I say that when you're talking about the forest industries in Western Australia, you're not talking about small cheese.

For example, over the next ten years, in revenue alone, we will be yielding to the State government \$1.5 billion.

It employs, the industry employs over 25,000 people - many of them in areas that you visited, it's the major employer.

In terms of investment to the State, one of the things that we're very very proud about in terms of CALM's contribution to the economic story about forest management, is that we've ensured that the investment of the State as it relates to production forestry is an excellent one in terms of return on investment.

Not only that, it's not only sufficient to rejuvenate the forest, which is absolutely fundamental to our forest management practices, but it makes a profit for the state.

You achieve this Mark, by very very substantial increases in royalties.

ABC INTERVIEWER: To quote your Minister - "Royalty is calculated by using a principle cost of growing. Royalty covers the value of the timber itself" - why cost? Why isn't the state making a big profit out of this very valuable resource?

DR. SHEA: But you've mis-understood some of the fundamental economics of the way we calculate royalties. You see, if you are investing as a private citizen as many big people are doing today in a building society or what-ever, you'd be lucky to get 14.5% nominal, which means if you take out inflation, which is if you take away 8%, 7.5% - we're in fact getting between 6 and 10% real for the state.

In addition to that, we're regenerating the forest.

So in terms of a government investment, because of royalty structure, we stand very tall and proud.

ABC INTERVIEWER: You are the conservator of an extremely invaluable resource –

DR. SHEA: True!

ABC INTERVIEWER: - which is obviously very highly prized by the people of this state - Karri and Jarrah forests.

Now, they would expect that you're going to be getting a decent profit out of that resource - better than you could get from investing elsewhere.

DR. SHEA: Certainly we are, because you're looking at the person who's presided over a 500% increase in royalties – for example woodchips, and in some cases, some categories of logs over a five year period, a 400% increase in royalties.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But your own Minister says that the royalties are calculated using a cost principle.

DR. SHEA: Of course, that's the first step in calculating the royalties, but we must get what it cost to replace the forest, but -

ABC INTERVIEWER: - making a profit?

DR. SHEA: Yes of course we are! Of course we are! - because as I've said to you quite clearly, is that the profit we make is in the rate of return that we get from the money we borrow.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Then you haven't been making a profit in the fairly recent past.

DR. SHEA: That's untrue! Who told you that? -

ABC INTERVIEWER: I mean you've just told me - you've told me yourself that the profits you are talking about are the results of reforms instituted by you.

DR. SHEA: Certainly, but we're talking about a five year period. Now, I cannot be responsible, nor would I denigrate what people have done in the past because it was a different environment.

What you're asking me, Mark, is what CALM has done, and what CALM has done in five years, with the strong support of the Government – and that's something of course that you might like to ask is – what might have been missing in the past – with the strong support of government, (cont. /14)

we have increased royalties, in some cases 500%, now that's a remarkable achievement, and I can tell you, it was one my first objectives, was to make sure that not only did we receive sufficient funds to regenerate and replace the forest, but also that there was a significant profit for the community, and we've done it.

ABC INTERVIEWER: The implication has to be that the timber industry has been getting an exceptionally easy ride economically.

DR. SHEA: Well I mean what happened in the past in times when the timber prices were different, and efficiencies were different – it's something you would have to ask those people about.

All I can tell you is this – in the last five years, the timber industry has experienced massive increases in the price of its timber, and I can tell you categorically that the way we calculate royalties is not only to ensure that we've got the money to replace the forest, and the forest then will be used by everybody, but also that the community makes a profit.

And we've done that by increasing royalties by massive amounts. Tell me any other a commodity price that's increased 500% in five years.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Why don't you charge them the market amount?

DR. SHEA: The market amount is charged at the margins. You see one of the difficulties that we have -

ABC INTERVIEWER: Well why not right across the board?

DR. SHEA: If in fact that is the market rate -

ABC INTERVIEWER: How would you know?

DR. SHEA: Because we do test the market at various times.

ABC INTERVIEWER: And when you do, you get \$70.00 for first-grade Karri logs.

DR. SHEA: Yeah - but of course - no, we get \$70.00 premium-grade Karri logs, and of course when we test the market, you also would be conscious of the fact that you're testing the marketing at the margin - it's a margining market.

ABC INTERVIEWER:

So it's not a fair test?

DR. SHEA: It's a contributing factor to our assessment of what the proper price for logs is, because the other market price, which is a real market price, that you've got to be aware of, is that this State, and there's other States, is subject to competing with logs imported from other parts of the world.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But why don't you move towards an open market in timber?

DR. SHEA: But we are moving towards an open market - I find it an extraordinary question, because in fact we've conducted a massive numbers of tenders and auctions since the timber strategy was introduced.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But a huge majority of the timber that Bunnings buys is not bought at tender or at auction.

DR. SHEA: A very significant portion of it is, and of course -

ABC INTERVIEWER: Of course a huge majority is not.

DR. SHEA: But the price for which they are paid for that part that they don't tender for, of course reflects what we've obtained. For example, we had two very large tenders for Karri regrowth – open tenders.

And Bunnings tendered \$23.00. Obviously when they tendered \$23.00 that price was reflected in the review of the other royalties. At a later tender we obtained higher prices for regrowth.

That was factored into our calculations of the average price of royalty for all saw mills, not just Bunnings.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But -

DR. SHEA: But the out and out is this, that we have increased timber prices in some cases by 500%. Now you tell me another commodity in that period of time that has enjoyed that sort of price increase and survived.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Would you agree with the proposition that Bunnings has grown to quasi monopoly proportions on large government subsidies provided by under-pricing of timber?

DR. SHEA: No, I won't agree with that at all - I'm not here to defend Bunnings or any part of the timber industry, let me make that clear.

What I'd say to you is that the Bunnings situation, where it has a significant proportion resource, has been acquired by market forces, not government forces.

In fact, what happened prior to CALM, way prior to CALM, was that when Bunnings originally wasn't the dominant company in the market, when other companies failed, just in the same way as we've seen people fail today in your industry, and being taken over, so that is what happened in timber industry.

It was the market - that wasn't the Government.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But how could Bunnings have got where it is now to 90% dominance of the hardwood market? - without subsidy of its raw material.

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DR. SHEA: Can I suggest to you that analogies with your own industry, as I understand, of today or tomorrow that Kerry Packer will be entering back into your industry by buying out another proprietor who, for what ever reason was inefficient.

Now that's exactly the same way that Bunnings acquired its quasi dominance or its dominance in the market, because the people that Bunnings bought the timber off, bought the companies off, had the same prices that Bunnings were paying.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Let me put it to you that if you're trying to manage a resource, and there's a company that has 90% dominance of that market, then you can talk as much as you like about getting back to market price, but that company is so monopolistic, so dominant, that you will never be able to establish a market.

DR. SHEA: Can I make two points to you - first of all you should clarify your facts, is that Bunnings does not have 90% dominance -

ABC INTERVIEWER: Well that's not what the Stock Market says - that's not - what the Stock Market evaluation of Bunnings is.

DR. SHEA: I'm telling you that in terms of resource, Bunnings doesn't have 90% of the resource. But I can tell you that there's another monopoly in this game, and it is a monopoly I'm sure you will agree with.

The monopoly is Government - this industry is totally socialised in its supplying of logs, and it cannot be any other way, because what citizen of Australia would want private companies to manage native forests?

We have an absolute monopoly of the native forests.

ABC INTERVIEWER: That doesn't address the question - that why...

DR. SHEA: But it does address the question

ABC INTERVIEWER: the Government doesn't put the timber that it puts on for the market on the open market.

DR SHEA: But it does, it does put a significant proportion of the timber on the open market over periods of time.

For example I've just told you that we had two massive tenders for regrowth Karri - that's the new forrest.

But you see, if we put all of the timber on the open market tomorrow, we would do what happened – had of what happened in North America on the West Coast, is that we would get extraordinary good prices for a year, then their whole industry would then become chaotic, and there would be massive unemployment.

What we've chosen to do, and I think you'll agree, is something which is an intelligent way of approaching the situation, is to have a blend of the existing system of allocation with increasing proportions over time of the resource being put on the market.

You see, Mark, it would be easy for me to take the easy route out, and say the simplest solution to this problem is not going to any complex calculations - we'll just throw it all on the market.

But by doing that, I would create chaos - I wouldn't suffer - ABC journalists wouldn't suffer, but ordinary people down in those towns who depend on their jobs for a stable timber industry would be out of a job.

Now I'm not prepared to do that.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Do you know what Bunnings pays its workers?

DR. SHEA: I know what Bunnings pays its workers, it's the same because they are under awards, it pays its workers the same as every other component of the timber industry and comparative other industries.

ABC INTERVIEWER: They're not far off the poverty line - do you think you're really doing them a favour by continuing to prop up the industry?

DR. SHEA: Can I suggest to you, one of the difficulties that people like you and I face in terms of evaluating what we get for a salary, is that we think everybody deserves the sort of salary that we get.

Unfortunately, and increasingly the community's beginning to realise that's not possible. At least these people have a job. The thing that I don't want to do is put them on the dole, and not only remove a significant proportion of their salary, to remove their dignity and pride.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Let me tell you a story which was told to us, and I've confirmed it with a number of small saw mills about a contract, a tender late last year for small saw logs in which a number of small saw millers bid about 19 or 20 dollars, and they all say that that was incredibly close to the - that was a very very tight margin of profit for them.

Bunnings came in and got the tender with 13 dollars per cubic metre. Now I'm not asking you to comment on the precise case if you don't know about it - but isn't that what we're talking about in terms of monopoly! **DR. SHEA:** Can I talk about this in a very precise way and say, that I want from you - and I want this down on record, the details of that, because that is a criminal charge.

That is a criminal charge against my staff, and other people in the industry,

ABC INTERVIEWER: Why is that a criminal charge?

DR. SHEA: - because that breaks Western Australian Tender Board Legislation.

I want to refer this to the West Australian Corruption Commission.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Why is this -

DR. SHEA: Because it is impossible in a tender operation for us to give the logs to a lower tender. Now if you can provide the information, I want it for the Western Australian Corruption Commission.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Your saying that -

DR. SHEA: Can we have it? Can we have the people who made the charge?

ABC INTERVIEWER: A - A number of them spoke to me right off the record, I can't breach their confidence.

DR. SHEA: I mean you're making the charge to me, and it's a very serious charge -I'm serious - I'm quite serious - make sure we're recording this - because that is a charge - that is a criminal charge.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Why is it corrupt criminal charge to accept a cheaper – that's the whole point of auction isn't' it?

DR. SHEA: No, but you cannot - we could not give a - the lower tender - or the lower person.

ABC INTERVIEWER: No, I'm sorry - start again - I'm talking about a haulage contract. Bunnings are talking about hauling it out for 13 dollars.

DR. SHEA: I thought you were saying, I mean gosh that's really serious!

ABC INTERVIEWER: No, what I'm talking about -

DR. SHEA: That's upset me - I've got to have a break for that - cos that really upsets me if you charge corruption -

ABC INTERVIEWER: No, no, no you've, you've -

ABC INTERVIEWER: Are you not now in a situation where Bunnings is so big and so dominant that it can simply under-cut any time it wants the small operators and prevent them from ever getting into areas of the market that Bunnings doesn't want them to get into?

DR. SHEA: Well that's not true, I will give you two examples for example – in terms of tendering for first-grade premium logs – the best logs in the forest, Bunnings didn't win it – in fact Tony Drake is a significant beneficiary of the latest tender, and you mentioned earlier the question of logging.

You see the thing is that for the first time we've opened the logging system to tenders and it's quite true to say that Bunnings won some, but they didn't win all.

For the first time, we've introduced the market into these critical areas, and one can argue about the market, but people can't have it both ways. We've introduced a fair market situation.

If Bunnings, and it's not only Bunnings, but other operators are more efficient than some of the people you've talked to, I'm sorry, that's the market operating.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But isn't – aren't they more efficient simply because they're so big, they become giants and can squash anybody else underfoot effectively?

DR. SHEA: In some areas that might be true, but in other areas that is not so, and that's reflected in for example the results of our tendering for logging, is that they have won tenders in some areas because they have an existing industry with existing equipment.

But there are very, very significant other players who have come into the industry who have won those tenders: So it's not true to say that they're totally dominant – either the logging or in the tender system. As I said, they didn't win.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Can you realistically look ahead ten years from now and say that Bunnings won't still be as dominant or even more dominant than it is now?

DR. SHEA: Well you see it's not my right, nor should it be as a Public Servant, to interfere drastically with the market. What I have tried to do, with the strong support of my Ministers and this Government, is to make sure that the market is fair and that, I think is a major achievement. I'm very very pleased and proud how we have been able to help the small sawmillers for example. You see, before the Timber Strategy and the Forest Management Plans they had no security of any timber. Now we've provided them with security, but on top of that, we have also put logs onto the market and contrary to what you're suggesting, they have won them. I mean last week, the Warren Small Sawmillers Association was the most successful tenderer, not just for first grade logs, for premium logs, your argument is not borne out by fact.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Let's change tack now and look at the issue which has been extremely contentious here of the logging in a national park – what happened?

DR. SHEA: We made a mistake.

ABC INTERVIEWER: What was the mistake?

DR. SHEA: The simple mistake was that, and I should say that we weren't carrying out logging in the national park which is quite ironic – what we were doing, was removing dangerous trees to protect the national park from wild fire.

ABC INTERVIEWER: How could it happen?

DR. SHEA: Well I can tell you how it happens, is that I worked in the area myself, and I know how difficult it is. The Shannon National Park is an unusual national park, in that the boundary is not a road or easy to find line, it's the catchment.

And so, to accurately define the catchment is very difficult when you get into the area where the ridges are quite mild.

Now we had the choice Mark, when we first declared the Shannon, that was part of our 500% increase in the national park estate in the Southern Forest, we had the choice of spending 2 million dollars for theodolite surveys of that boundary to be absolutely precise about it.

And we decided that 2 million dollars would be better spent doing lots of other more productive things in the national park. Now my officers made a mistake. They picked the wrong ridge, and they, instead of keeping it in the area within state forest, they drifted over the line. **ABC INTERVIEWER:** But why didn't they just walk out the distance from the nearest marker tree?

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DR. SHEA: Well if you've been in the country, which I understand you have, it's not surveyed, you've got to be able to pick the ridges.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But there are marker trees there, use the road, use the odometer of a car couldn't they?

DR. SHEA: Even doing that in that country is very difficult. It's not easy country to pick catchments. They made a mistake, and they -

ABC INTERVIEWER: Why were they relying on the catchment and not the marker trees which are there?

DR. SHEA: No, the marker trees do not denote the catchment, you've got to understand this quite clearly. The marker trees give you a reference on a map, they do not relate to the contours.

And the only way that you can pick the actual boundary precisely of the Shannon National Park is the water-shed Now where the water-shed is a ridge, and it's quite incised, it's very easy.

But if you go out where they were, where it's quite moderate terrain, it is very very difficult to pick exactly where the water-shed is.

For viewers, the water-shed is where the line that demarks the water flows one way compared to the other way, so it's a very difficult job. But, there's no excuse for the mistake they made, and it won't happen again.

ABC INTERVIEWER: How do you know that? How do you know it hasn't happened before?

DR. SHEA: Well I know it hasn't happened before because we haven't been in those difficult areas, and to the credit of the guys who are doing the job, they did individually mark the trees.

But you see, Mark, the only people who don't make mistakes, are the people who don't do anything. And where I get really worried about our department is when I don't hear them making a few mistakes, because that's when I know they're not doing anything.

And now we can minimise mistakes, but we'll always make them, and this was one - it's not one that we're very pleased about - I can assure you the people that made the mistake are very sorry about it.

It's a little bit out of perspective when you consider that they drifted across a line accidently, and yet their whole purpose of removing those trees was to protect the park.

I might say also to protect staff. You see, we've lost guys in fires in that country because we hadn't done that sort of operation.

We've had trees come down on people - ordinary people, and kill them. Now I'm not prepared not to take measures to minimise that risk to my staff.

ABC INTERVIEWER: So you're prepared to go on logging in national parks even if-?

DR. SHEA: No, that's a ridiculous proposition – I didn't say that. I said that when we're carrying out burning, we will carry out those measures to remove trees up to the boundary of a national park, and we'll do it because we want to protect the national park, and want to make sure that our people are not placed at risk.

ABC INTERVIEWER:

How many trees did it involve?

DR. SHEA: The number of trees is around about eighty to the hundred. But again, the difficulty you have, even now is, because the country is so deceptive in terms of which way the waters run, is to be absolutely precise.

ABC INTERVIEWER: What happened to the logs?

DR. SHEA: Can I put in perspective – is that the actual areas in which they strayed into represented .006% of the national park, but if we had a wildfire in that national park, we would kill hundreds of millions of trees.

So although an error was made - it was a genuine error, and it was during an operation which wasn't a logging operation, it was to protect the park.

ABC INTERVIEWER:

What happened to the logs?

DR. SHEA: The logs - as part of a normal operation, they're taken by a range of mills because -

ABC INTERVIEWER: Why weren't they branded?

DR. SHEA: They were branded with chalk because the tree marker at the time had lost his axe, and it's normal practice to allow them to chalk the logs as they did.

ABC INTERVIEWER: That's another breach of the Act -

DR. SHEA: No it's not - it's completely and utterly incorrect.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Breach of the regulations -

DR. SHEA: No, it's not a breach of the regulations. It's provided that the feller is given the instruction that in the fact that he temporarily lost his axe then he marks them with chalk, that is quite legitimate.

ABC INTERVIEWER: You're a dieback specialist - does it surprise you that we've got film of your bulldozers right there coming and going in the disease risk area without the customary the regulation wash-downs?

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DR. SHEA: That is total nonsense because I was particularly aware of the fact that you were filming out there, and I was particularly aware of the fact that the operation was going on.

The operation was going on under the most stringent hygiene conditions. As you said, I'm a dieback expert, and I suggest that you might be an expert ABC Interviewer, but you're not an expert on hygiene management.

ABC INTERVIEWER:

Why are quarantine gates so routinely left open?

DR. SHEA: Quarantine gates are left open at different times of the year because -

ABC INTERVIEWER:

Not on the weekend are they?

DR. SHEA: No just a minute - the whole system of quarantine gates is very variable over time and space because at certain times of the year, there's no necessity to have stringent quarantine because the soil is dry, other times -

ABC INTERVIEWER: We were there in pretty wet weather.

DR. SHEA: Well, I think again, you've got to be careful about how your understanding – what your understanding of the disease is. If you like, I'd be very happy to give Four Corners quite a detailed exposition on the spread of phytophthera under different moisture conditions. I spent half my life examining it.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Does it surprise you to find gates literally knocked right off their hinges and lying in the ditch?

DR SHEA: Not surprise me at all, because one of the great tragedies not only with respect to gates in forest and in national parks, is increasingly we're seeing vandalism. For example, yesterday I was visiting the forest to examine some of our recreation -

ABC INTERVIEWER: Hang on a sec.

DR. SHEA: This is a good point!

DR SHEA: Not surprise to me at all, because one of the great tragedies not only with respect to gates in forest, and national parks, is increasingly we are seeing vandalism. For example, yesterday I was visiting the forest to examine some of our recreation areas, is that a small minority vandalises not only gates but toilets, our picnic tables - it's impossible to control.

ABC INTERVIEWER: The conservationists say it's the logging trucks that knock them out.

DR SHEA: Can I again say to you again, that if the conservationists say that, then they need to specific, and again, we'll record this and make sure that charges are made, because again, that's a serious offence, and if they've got a specific incident where a logging truck is doing that, then I'll proceed with charges.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But in general, doesn't it indicate that your management of dieback is not working very well, that we were, in muddy weather, able to find, in so many instances, quarantine gates just left open, padlocks taken way?

DR. SHEA: No, I've got to reject that out of hand -

ABC INTERVIEWER:

Why isn't it policed better?

DR SHEA: I'm going to tell you categorically, as you indicated to me, that part of my background is very much associated with the management of phytophthera in this forest, and it's just not me, but every visiting expert, either a manager or a pathologist is absolutely incredulous at the degree of control we've achieved by our forest hygiene and management processes.

Now it's true to say because it's a very large area, and that we cannot patrol it every day, that we will get vandals, and that the gates will be broken down.

But in the end effect, we've made the most significant contribution to control of what anybody said less than ten years ago, was the disease that would destroy the whole forest, that anyone could have imagined, and we're very proud of it.

ABC INTERVIEWER: And it's not a problem any more? It's not going to be a problem any more?

DR. SHEA: One of the key things about dieback control is to maintain the pressure and continuely improve your operations. But I just put it to you this, is that ten years ago, and I was working in the field, the general thought around Australia and the world was, that we wouldn't have a Jarrah forest by now.

Look at the record - we've successfully managed to control this disease in a way that no where any where else has been achieved.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Tell me about your policy on road, river and stream reserves. Are you going to halve them?

DR. SHEA: No, it's not a policy to halve the road, river and stream reserves. What we will be doing over the next several months, is drawing up a whole series of options in a way to restructure the road, river and stream reserves.

But the condition is, the precondition is there will be no reduction in area of the road, river and stream reserves, and the second very important point to make is, that there will be no decision by Government, who makes the decision in the end, until there's been the most maximum contribution from the community.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Do you yourself support the proposal to halve the road and river reserves?

DR. SHEA: I would like to look at all the options before I make any categoric statement. What I can say to you is this, that in the time since the original road, river and stream reserves were put down in the ground, we've made tremendous progress, particularly with our landscape design people, and particularly with our biologists in terms of the conservation, that is, of road, river and stream reserves.

And there certainly is a prima facie case to say at this stage that it would be better to relocate some of the reserve systems into the valley systems where water, that is in conservation valleys, is more important to protect.

And as a consequence of our very, very sophisticated landscape architect analysis, that we will lose nothing from modifying the road reserves in terms of the aesthetics.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But why relocate them, why not keep the road and river reserves and still extend up the streams?

DR. SHEA: Well I guess the argument is simply this, Mark, is that over the last five years, we've increased the Conservation Estate, the National Parks by 500%.

ABC INTERVIEWER:

So you need more timber.

DR. SHEA: No, we don't need more timber at all, what the government says to us, and the community have said to us through our timber strategy and our forest management plans, that we've struck the right balance.

Now if in fact the government decides, or the community through the government decides that they want to change the ratio, then we will increase the reserve system –

ABC INTERVIEWER: You said yourself in the CALM news that one of the reasons behind this, was that there was a need for more timber.

DR. SHEA: No, I didn't say that at all. Can I say this to you quite categorically, is that what we've been able to achieve in the Southern Forest, is a 500% increase in the National Park Estate - undisputable - at the same time over that 5 year period, we've reduced the area of cut-over forest by 40%.

Now we can keep on trying to improve, but it is getting more and more difficult to have increasing demands from all sides without making some sort of a compromise.

Now, as we stand now, I believe that we can have the same road, river and stream reserve system in terms of area much more efficiently distributed, achieving much more than it does now, at the same time we can accommodate what the Government requires of us with respect to supply in logs for the timber industry.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Given the pressure on the resource, why not say to the government, we've got to take less timber out of the forest.

DR. SHEA: Well, I mean that's the easy way out, Mark, the great challenge, the great challenge as David Bellamy says in that ad you're going to show

ABC INTERVIEWER: Oops..

DR. SHEA: You always cut-out at the critical point, have a go mate!

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ABC INTERVIEWER: Given the pressure on the resource, why not say to the Government, we've got to take less timber out of the forest?

DR. SHEA: Well, I mean that's the easy way out, Mark, the great challenge, the great challenge in that ad you're going to show as David Bellamy says, the first thing you've got to ensure is to ensure that the jewels of the forest are reserved and we've done that - a 500% increase in the conservation estate.

But then, with good management, you can have your cake and eat it too - and that's what we're about.

If the Government wants to, or the community wants to change the balance, and don't forget they've gone through an extensive process of they deciding what the balance is at this stage, then we can do it.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But there is going to be pressure for more national parks – can you get more national parks and still take as much timber?

DR. SHEA: Well we can certainly at the margins increase it, may I say it..

ABC INTERVIEWER: The "margins" means road, river and stream reserves?

DR. SHEA: No, not at all - I didn't say that at all. What we have done is to make regrowth forest - the finest regrowth forest in the State a national park.

I mean, conservationists regard the Boranup Forest as some of the best Karri forest in the state - and that's a regrowth forest we've made a national park, so it's always possible, as David Bellamy says, "to have your cake and eat it too". Those regrowth forests can become national parks, so there's an infinite capacity to increase the national park estate over time, but at this point in time, we certainly are going through a period where we have to strike a balance - we think we've struck it.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Looking at the argument that's been going on between Tony Drake, the small saw-miller and Bunnings, about who can best use the wood, where do you stand?

DR. SHEA: As I said to you, I'm the extreme centreparty, and quite frankly I'm not interested in arguments between saw-millers. But I can tell you this, is that the A-grade log, general purpose log we sell, has got 50% of it can't be used for sawn timber, so it's a physical impossibility on average to get 60% recovery.

Now what is true to say is, the very very top-grade logs - that's the very straight ones with very little defect, you can get a much higher recovery - but they're balanced by the ones where in fact on average, the defect is maybe 30%.

But see, the real argument is not about percentage recovery of sawn timber. You see the real argument is putting value on that beautiful hardwood, and the good news is that that's happening in Western Australia.

And the reason why it's happening is because we've been able to give security on the one hand to those who want the jewels of the forest and national parks, and security to the timber industry, the large ones and the little ones, because that's enabled them to invest in the new technology, the exciting new technology which is producing furniture-grade timber from our hardwood forest.

And if you really want to talk about employment, a number of people working in this industry in a creative way, if you want to talk about export income, then give us the encouragement to proceed along the way we're going, because it's in value added product that we're going to succeed in achieving the best for the timber industry in this State. ABC INTERVIEWER: But shouldn't the trade-off for that be that you can take less out of the forest?

DR. SHEA: Well in fact as I've said to you, in the last five years, we've reduced the cut-over area of forest by 40% by improvement in utilisation.

ABC INTERVIEWER: But isn't that because there's not that much old growth left in the state forest?

DR. SHEA: No - that's got nothing to do with old growth forest at all. What that's got to do with is a strategy relating to changing the prices of logs, and to the new technology and to more efficiency, which has meant that logs previously which were burnt are now being used for sawn timber.

So, come back to your point, you're saying to me, "can't you do something about making more reserves?"

I will tell you this - how do you think we've increased the reserves, the national parks in that Southern Forest by 500% without destroying the timber industry?

How do you think we've reduced the cut-over area by 40%? It's because of better, efficient management and utilisation. How much further should we go? Well we'll keep on trying, but the runs are on the board, Mark, and I hope you put them up on the television screen.

ABC INTERVIEWER: The Resources Assessment Commission has got the spotlight on you at the moment, and their particular interest is whether it is economically worthwhile to keep on cutting down the forests, to keep on managing them the way you are.

What's your answer to them? What's going to be thrust of what you say to them?

DR SHEA: What I can say is that we strongly support the Resources Assessment Commission because it brings a degree of objectivity and professionalism in this debate which hasn't been there in recent times.

The second thing I will say to you is that the Resources Assessment Commission has already been over here and has acclaimed our forest management.

The third thing I would say to you, is that we've made our submission to the Resources Assessment Commission, we've put all our cards on the table, and we believe because we've achieved those very very significant increases in prices of logs, and because of our efficiency that it is an economic proposition.

As I said to you, we're not talking about "small cheese" in this state. We're not only talking about an incredibly important reserve for tourism which has 2 million visits in the forests in the South-west.

We're also talking about an industry, which over the next ten years, will invest more than 200 million dollars, and will yield to the state more than a billion dollars.

So, we believe the economics are right, but certainly we will welcome the Resources Assessment Commission's detailed and objective analysis, and we hope that you mirror the analysis that they're going to do in your TV program when you show it.

ABC INTERVIEWER: The Commission is only in the preliminary stages of its investigations – it seems remarkable that you say that they're acclaiming your forest management at this stage.

DR. SHEA: Certainly when we talked, we've had the Resources Assessment Commission, not all the commissioners, but a commissioner and their staff, and we took them through the forest, and much of the forest that you saw today, they acclaimed what they saw. ABC INTERVIEWER: They acclaimed it?

DR. SHEA: Yes.

ABC INTERVIEWER: You have the seal of approval -

DR. SHEA: No we haven't -

ABC INTERVIEWER: - from the Resources Assessment Commission.

DR. SHEA: - Not in writing, we have their verbal thanks and congratulations on what was shown, and also their appreciation of what's being done.

What about Tourism? You haven't asked me about tourism -

ABC INTERVIEWER: We've got to get another 2 shot because the lights change behind you, because if you just sit and patiently listen.

DR. SHEA: Always a bit difficult for me Mark, ha, ha.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Yep, I think the - perhaps to say that the Resources Assessment Commission had acclaimed you might have been, just a - not -

DR. SHEA: I mean to say it like that in front of witnesses - staff in the field with the a commissioner, I don't care, it doesn't worry me.

ABC INTERVIEWER: Right, I've got to talk to you for a second or two - this is not for use in terms of the interview, I've just got to get essentially the back of my head with my jaw moving - that's the general idea, and you're sitting there listening.

DR SHEA: Smiling as usual...

ABC INTERVIEWER: If you want to. Yes - we've covered over the last hour or so, we've covered a pretty broad range of subjects, and probably done a fair job of covering all the bases.

DR SHEA: We haven't covered tourism yet, haven't covered tourism.

END OF SEGMENT

Monday 18 June 1990 mc

* Phonetic

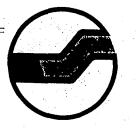
Appendix 3.

Letter to Mark Colvin inviting Four Corners to visit the Harvey Wood Utilisation Research Centre 31 May 1990.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Please address all enquiries to:

Regional Office Brain Street MANJIMUP WA 6258



Your Ref: Our Ref: F Enquiries: K Vear

Mr Mark Colvin "Four Corners" C/- Kingsley Motel 3 Chopping Street MANJIMUP WA 6258

Dear Mark,

Dr Shea telephoned today whilst you were in the field filming with Alan Walker.

He had hoped to talk to you personally to invite you to call in at CALM's Wood Utilisation and Research Centre (WURC) at Harvey, on your way back to Perth.

The Centre won the 1990 Government Technology Productivity Gold Award - a National award - for CALM's innovative Valwood process. This process turns waste wood into quality timber products. It will help to satisfy the demand for high quality furniture wood and to establish value added markets for small trees culled from over crowded regrowth eucalypt forests.

The Harvey WURC is involved in a number of other programs including the development of low capital cost and efficient tunnel kilns suitable for use by small sawmillers in maximising the value they can add to their sawn products.

Please confirm with either Dr Shea, Alan Walker or Kevin Vear whether or not you are able to include a visit to the Centre into your itinerary.

Yours faithfully,

Shea walk

DR SYD SHEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR per KEVIN VEAR

KRV:KMW 31 May 1990

Appendix 4.

CALM Briefing Paper 2/90 - Timber Royalties.



Department of Conservation and Land Management 50 Hayman Road, Como, WA 6152

CALM BRIEFING PAPER 2/90

CIRCULATE TO ALL EMPLOYEES

TIMBER ROYALTIES

In reponse to recent publicity about timber royalties, this briefing note sets out some commonly asked questions and answers. This information can be used to respond to queries from the public.

WHO APPROVES TIMBER ROYALTIES?

The Government, through the Minister for the Environment. Recommendations to the Minister are made by the Executive Director of CALM.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ROYALTY AND STUMPAGE?

Royalty is applied to timber harvested from naturally occurring old growth hardwood forests, and is shown in CALM's Annual Report under "Territorial Revenue".

Stumpage is revenue from forests (softwood or regrowth hardwood) which the Government (CALM) has grown using capital funds, and is recorded in the Department's annual accounts as "Departmental Revenue".

HOW ARE ROYALTIES SET?

The various costs for growing forests are identified. Royalties are designed to recover these costs and to provide a return to the Government on the capital invested in growing the forest, known as the Internal Rate of Return (IRR). This principle is used to arrive at a target royalty for each timber species and grade of log. For details of the system of royalty calculations see the Timber Strategy (Part 8, pages 67-70).

The IRR is added to the current rate of inflation. Therefore, if the IRR is 5% and inflation is 8%, the interest charged would be 13%.

ARE ROYALTIES REVIEWED?

A major review in 1985/86 established the costs of growing at the time. Royalties being charged at the time were considerably less than the calculated royalty. A set of target royalties was established, to be achieved over time. A substantial increase, particularly for First Grade sawlogs, came into effect on 1 August 1986.

The Government also announced that royalties would be reviewed every three years. New target royalties were set after a review in 1989 and should be achieved by 1 January 1992. The first increases came into effect on 1 January 1990.

ARE ROYALTY RATES INDEXED?

Yes. Hardwood royalties have been indexed annually since 1984 according to movements in the Timber Price Index, an indice produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics that measures the sale price of sawn timber in WA.

Softwood stumpages are also indexed annually using movements in the Consumer Price Index for Perth. In the future, hardwood stumpages will be treated the same as softwoods.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT ROYALTY RATES?

Current royalty rates for the major log categories, which will apply from July 1, 1990, are:

Jarrah \$/m³			Marri \$/m³	Pine \$/m³
\$73.20	\$	72.97		\$74.02
\$28.48	-		\$12.00	\$60.29
\$18.27	\$	24.23	\$12.00	\$39.33
\$12.00	\$	12.00	-	\$26.91
\$18.27	\$	25.87	\$25.87	\$19.54
\$ 7.00	\$	15.00	\$15.00	\$ 8.39
	\$/m ³ \$73.20 \$28.48 \$18.27 \$12.00 \$18.27	\$/m ³ \$ \$73.20 \$ \$28.48 \$ \$18.27 \$ \$12.00 \$ \$18.27 \$	\$/m ³ \$73.20 \$72.97 \$28.48 \$34.00 \$18.27 \$24.23 \$12.00 \$12.00 \$18.27 \$25.87	\$/m³\$/m³\$73.20\$72.97\$28.48\$34.00\$18.27\$24.23\$12.00\$12.00\$12.00\$12.00\$12.00\$12.00\$25.87

The target royalty is generally higher than the current rate. Target royalties for First Grade sawlogs by 1 January 1992 are:

Jarrah:	\$30.66 plus annual CPI indexation
Karri:	\$38.50 plus annual CPI indexation
Marri:	\$12.00 plus annual CPI indexation
Pine:	\$64.36 plus annual CPI indexation

In 1984/85, when CALM was formed, the weighted average-royalty was \$12.72 for jarrah and \$11.76 for karri (so increases of 123% for jarrah and 189% for karri have occurred).

ARE DIFFERENT COMPANIES PAYING DIFFERENT ROYALTIES?

Yes. When comparing royalties, the following must be taken into account:

- 1. The same species, and the same grade of log should be compared.
- 2. Some mills are accepting smaller logs as First Grade logs.
- 3. In the past, the bigger companies paid the lowest royalties. While the new system has redressed this inequity, they have been given time to adjust. However, the rate of movement towards target royalties is greater for companies that started from the lowest base. All companies will be paying the target royalty by 1 January 1992.

4. Logs allocated under the Timber Strategy attract the relevant target royalty, while logs auctioned or tendered often attract a higher price.

WHY DOES BUNNINGS ONLY PAY \$29 ROYALTY WHEN THE MARKET IS PREPARED TO PAY UP TO \$80?

See answer to the previous question.

In addition, under the auction system some people pay more for small parcels of logs. These people may be "topping up" their log resource beyond that allocated to them at the target royalty, or they are small operators with low overheads. The larger companies carry out research and development, promotion, advertising, sponsorship and other activities which benefit the timber industry as a whole. Eighty dollars is the highest royalty yet bid for Premium Grade sawlogs and, if all logs were tendered, it is unlikely that anywhere near this amount would be obtained.

WHAT IS A MARKET PREMIUM?

The market premium is the difference between the target royalty and the successful price bid at auction or tender. It is not indexed like the target royalty, but is recognised as the price the market was prepared to pay at the time for whatever reason, such as scarcity of resource.

WHY ARE SOME LOGS ALLOCATED TO COMPANIES WHILE OTHERS ARE AUCTIONED?

CALM inherited a permit and licence system which had largely been developed over 50 years ago. In that system several companies had sole rights to timber on Crown land. Other companies had to use logs from private property or occasional parcels of salvage logs.

A massive social dislocation would have occurred in the South-West if all permits were suddenly cancelled and all logs put up for tender. CALM dealt with this situation in the 1987 Timber Strategy by continuing to allocate a large part of the annual cut, but putting up an increasing volume each year for tender.

Allocations were made to mills that already had access to Crown land timber as well as to a large number of smaller mills. The larger mills received between 50% and 90% of their previous intake. The allotment to other mills was based on 50% of their average log intake over the previous three years, regardless of where it came from. The allocation system is detailed in the Timber Strategy (Part 7, pages 57-66).

In 1987, the total allowable cut from the forest was recalculated. Timber not allocated was then sold by open tender or auction.

There have been over 50 public sales of logs. The base price used for these sales is the target royalty. In almost all cases, prices greater than the target royalty have been bid; in one case more than double.

WHAT IS A CONTRACT OF SAL

A Contract of Sale is a legally binding document between the Executive Director and the buyer. The contract details the amount of timber, the term over which the timber will be supplied and the financial arrangements, including royalty.

WHAT IS THE TOTAL COST OF LOGS TO SAWMILLERS?

The price of logs delivered to the mill landing includes the following costs:

***** Royalty or stumpage.

***** Harvesting and delivery to the mill.

In January 1990, CALM became the prime contractor for all harvesting operations within State forest (about 1.75 million cubic metres per annum). To fulfill this commitment, the Department invited public tenders called Contracts to Supply (logging contracts) and now employs private contractors to do the work on its behalf. The Department charges the sawmillers this cost.

***** In-forest costs.

A fixed price per tonne (cubic metre) is levied on all logs sold, to cover work carried out in the bush to facilitate harvesting, including tree marking and supervising contractors.

Roading charge.

CALM also builds and maintains logging roads. Again, a fixed amount, presently \$2.61 per cubic metre for hardwood logs in the Southern Forest Region and \$2.26 per cubic metre in other forest regions, is charged to cover CALM's costs. For softwood sawlogs, the charge is 85 cents per cubic metre.

***** Administration charge.

A charge equivalent to 7.5% of the direct contractor production charge is levied to cover the cost of administering contracts, rendering accounts and financing logging contracts.

* Log levy

This is a voluntary payment for timber promotion made by sawmillers to the Forest Products Association. CALM collects this levy on behalf of the FPA.

* Security

CALM requires that companies having Contracts of Sale or Contracts to Supply provide adequate security to minimise the risk to the Executive Director should the company be unable to meet its contract obligations.

WHAT IS THE TOTAL ROYALTY?

The total Government revenue from timber is expected to be \$45.7 million in 1990/91. This compares with \$15.6 million received for a greater volume of timber in 1984/85 when CALM was formed, an increase of around 300%.

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Appendix 5.

Letter to the Editor "Warren-Blackwood Times" regarding freedom of information on log royalties. 5 October 1989. DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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Our Ref: Enquiries: RJU:ps

Phone:

The Editor Warren Blackwood Times South-West Printing and Publishing Co Ltd Giblett Street MANJIMUP WA 6258

Dear Sir

In the absence of Dr Shea on leave, I respond on his behalf to criticism of him and of CALM by W Breugle of Manjimup and P Lewis of Bridgetown.

First to the question of CALM's interests, and the perception that we might find it difficult to be both preservationists and conservationists. CALM has very wide responsibilities. Some of the things we do, like saving whales and developing recreation areas earn us general praise from the community. In other areas, for example our responsibility for setting quotas and supervising the kangaroo harvesting industry, the wildflower picking industry the timber industry, or our role in establishment of and plantations to provide future timber resources, we are caught up in conflicts about the use of public land and resources. In this situation, we find ourselves criticised by those who don't agree with the exploitation of resources, or by those who think that the controls we impose are too tight or not tight enough. It is very difficult to find a path through these issues which pleases everyone, but we try. Having a staff with a range of training and interests across the whole spectrum of land management and conservation helps us in our search for the best path. Voices from the community also help us, and we welcome comments which will help us do a better job.

In response to Mr Lewis' specific questions about forestry management in the south-west.

Firstly, there are no secrets on log royalty. I am happy to provide any enquirer with information about the royalties paid by any timber company in Western Australia.

Secondly, clearfelling has been practised in WA karri forests since late in the 19th century. The fine second growth karri forests around Denmark, at Boranup and near Pemberton all were established after clearfelling. The Boranup forest is now almost 100 years old. It has recently been accepted for addition to the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park - a tribute to the beauty and vitality of this forest. A great deal of research has been carried out into the flora and fauna of the karri forest and possible deleterious effects of timber cutting. This research has not revealed a single species of plant or animal which is threatened with extinction by logging and regeneration in our forests.

Thirdly, I cannot agree that timber cutting will destroy half the karri forest. Timber cutting is followed by regeneration and the karri forests which are regrown are beautiful, and full of wildlife. They are also available for timber cutting again. Future generations may choose to harvest these forests or they may choose not to - the important thing for us is to make sure they have a choice, as this generation did.

Fourthly, CALM is not proposing to swap old growth forests for regrowth forests along roads, rivers and streams. We would like to redistribute some of the road, river and stream reserves because we think a better system than the one developed in the early 1970s can now be designed. We are very well aware of the suspicion and doubts some people in the community have about these proposals. I assure these people we will not act without detailed proposals being made public and full consultation. I also point out that CALM cannot act independently on this issue. Any change to the existing system requires EPA approval.

Finally, CALM is not in the business of "destroying forests". We are in the business of trying to manage public forests to provide things the public of WA wants. While people use timber and paper, trees will need to be felled and logs sawn or pulped. Every West Australian consumer contributes to the demands for forest products and therefore to the need for timber cutting in forests.

Furthermore, the people of WA have decided, through their elected government, that part of their timber needs will come from part of the karri forest. The role of CALM is to try to manage this process. It is a difficult and complex job, and often a thankless one, but we will continue to try to do our best, helped I hope, by members of the community like W Breugle and P Lewis who can contribute their wisdom and advice.

Yours faithfully

R J Underwood ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

5 October 1989

Appendix 6.

Schedule of log royalties 1/1/90.

SCHEDULE 1A HARDWOOD ROYALTY REVIEW-JARRAH PRODUCTS (Wandoo and Blackbutt⁺ included where applicable)

	PRODUCT	• •	ROYALTY @	1/1/90	·····
•		•	(\$/m3)	(S /t)	
	OLD GROWTH	•			·
	Premium Sawlogs/ & Bridge Timbers	:	\$ 73.20	\$59.03	
	1st Grade Sawlogs	:	\$28.48	\$22.97	-
	2nd Grade Sawlogs	:	\$18.27	\$14.74	•
• •	3rd Grade Sawlogs	:	\$12.00	\$9.68	4
	Residuc	•		\$7.00	
	Rounds	:	\$18.27		
· · ·	REGROWTH SAWLOGS				
	Valwood	:	\$18.27	\$16.31	ļ
	Small Sawlogs	•	\$18.27	\$16.31	
	Medium Sawlogs	:	\$20.83	\$18.60	

ROYREV90

SCHEDULE 1B HARDWOOD ROYALTY REVIEW-KARRI PRODUCTS ----

	PRODUCT :	ROYALTY @	1/1/90		
•		(\$/m3)	(\$ /t)		1
	OLD GROWTH :				1
	Premium Sawlogs :	\$ 72.97	\$58.85		1 . 1
1 1 1	: 1st Grade Sawlogs :	\$ 34.00	\$27.42		
	: 2nd Grade Sawlogs :	\$24.23	\$19.54	*	
	: 3rd Grade Sawlogs :	\$12.00	\$ 9.68		
•	REGROWTH SAWLOGS			•	
	Small Sawlogs :	\$14.24	\$11.97		
	: Medium Sawlogs	\$25.87	\$21.75	<i>'</i> ,	
	Large Sawlogs :	\$34.00	\$27.42	•	-

ROYREV90

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	PRODUCT		ROYALTY @ (\$/m3)	1/1/90 (\$ /t)	
	OLD GROWTH	unitational de la Companya de la Com Nomentational de la Companya de la Co			
	1st Grade Sawl		\$12.00	\$9.68	
an e se an	2nd Grade Sawl		\$12.00	\$9.68	1
	REGROWTH SAWLO	XGS :	s Asolet Arts Asolet San Arts Asolet Arts Arts		
	Small Sawlogs		\$14.24	\$11.97	
	Medium Sawlogs		\$25.87	\$21.75	
er over		n an an Anna an Anna Anna Anna Anna Anna Anna			n in starten No in starten son
	an an an Anna Anna Anna Anna Anna	•		-	
					a politik kara da da da Alektrika kara da da

SCHEDULE 1C HARDWOOD ROYALTY REVIEW-MARRI PRODUCTS

ROYREV90

SCHEDULE 2

SCHEDULE OF ROYALTIES

MINOR FOREST PRODUCE: ROUND TIMBER BY DIMENSION (INCL. MINING TIMBER) (from CALM Forest Regions, Dryandra & Highbury State Forests.)

Operative Date: 1st January 1990

The prices stated in this schedule are applicable to sales made on a cash basis.Credit sales will be subject to the appropriate CONDITIONS OF SALE, which may include a penalty for late payment of royalty.

S PER PIECE

LENGTH			CROWN DIA	METER-CEN	TIMETRES	· · · · · · · ·	
METRES	0-9.9	10-14.9	15-19.9	20-24.9	25-29.9	30-34.9	35-39.9
0-2.9	• • • •		2				
	\$0.31	\$ 0.67	\$1,46	\$2.36	\$3.47	\$4.80	\$6.35
3-3.9	\$0.47	\$1.15	\$ 2.13	\$3.41	\$4.99	\$6.88	\$9.06
1-4.9	\$ 0.65	\$ 1.56	\$2.85	\$4.52	\$6.59	\$9.04	\$11.88
5-5.9	\$0.86	\$2.00	\$3.62	\$5.70	\$8.26	\$1129	\$14.79
-6.9	\$1.10	\$2.49	\$4.44	\$6.95	\$10.01	\$13.63	\$17.82
,-7.9	\$1.37	\$3.02	\$5.32	\$8.26	\$11.84	\$16.07	\$20.94
-8.9	\$1.67	\$ 3.59	\$ 6.25	\$ 9.64	\$13.76	\$18.60	\$24.18
9-9.9	\$2.00	\$4.21	\$7.24	\$11.09	\$15.75	\$21.23	\$27.53
0-10.9	\$2.36	\$4.88	\$8.29	\$12.61	\$17.83	\$23.96	\$30.98
1-11.9	\$2.76	\$5.59	\$9.40	\$14.21	\$20.00	\$26.78	\$34,5
2-12.9	\$3.19	\$6.35	\$10.57	\$15.88	\$22.25	\$29.71	\$38.2
3-13.9	\$3.66	\$ 7.16	\$11.81	\$17.62	\$24.60	\$32.73	\$42.03
4-14.9	\$4.17	\$8.02	\$13.11.	\$19.45	\$27.03	\$35.86	\$45.9

Listed rates apply to all hardwood species unless otherwise stated.

Roading charge and inforest costs are included at the rate of : ROADING \$2.26/m3 INFOREST COST \$1.35/m3

Split-fenceposts charged at the single rate of \$0.67/piece, regardless of dimensions.

	,	3 8		
	PRODUCT	: STUMPAGE : (\$/m3)	@ 1/1/90 (\$/t)	
1	1st Class Peeler logs	: s: \$ 74.02	\$ 0.00	
	2nd Class Peeler logs	: s: \$54.87	\$0.00	
	1st Class Sawlogs	: \$60.29	\$0.00 -	
	2nd Class Sawlogs	: : \$39.33	\$0.00	, i
	3rd Class Sawlogs	: \$26.91	\$ 0.00	
й Р 1	Small Sawlogs	: \$ 19.54	\$0.00	
	Metro Sm.P.Rds < 1.8m	: n: \$17.95	\$0.00 ·	
	Metro Sm.P.Rds > 1.8m	: n: \$26.12	\$0.00	
	S/W Sm.P.Rds < 1.8m	: \$ 15.28	\$0.00	
	S/W Sm.P.Rds > 1.8m	; ; \$22.19	\$0.90	
	Particleboard Logs	: \$8.39	\$0.00	
	(Southwest) Particleboard Logs (Mctropolitan)	: : \$ 10.07 :	\$0.00	
				11 A.

SCHEDULE 1D SOFTWOOD STUMPAGE REVIEW-P.RAD & P.PIN PRODUCTS

ROYREV90

SCHEDULE 3

MINOR FOREST PRODUCE: MISCELLANEOUS

From CALM Forest Regions & including Dryandra and Highbury State Forests.

	1. A. F.			
Operative from 1 January 1990				
	Royalty	Inforest	Roading	Total
DOMESTIC FIREWOOD	\$7.00 / t	\$0.55 /t	\$1.84 /t	\$9.39 /t
RESIDUE LOGS FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES	\$7.00 /t	\$ 0.55 /t	\$1.84 /t	\$9.39 /t
CHOPPING LOGS				
Jarrah	\$1.25 ea	\$0.09 ca	\$0.16 ca	\$1.50 ca
Karri	\$0.62 ca	\$0.04 ca		
Pine	\$2.95 ca	\$0.12 ca	\$0.08 ca	\$3.15 ca
BEAN STICKS			▲	\$3.51 /1(
GRAVEL, SAND & STONE Issued under	separate sci	hedule)
SPECIALITY TIMBER				
	th : up to 3r	n 3	4	.\$1,1.15
	iths; up to 2			\$55.73
	onths : up to			\$111.45
B. Green Standing, e.g. Curly Ja			ver Banksi	а,
Bull Banksia, Peppermint,Wa	rren River C	edar.		· · ·
Measured in the round Measured in the square	\$32.47 m3	\$1.35 m3	\$2.26 m3	\$36.08 m3
Measured in the square	\$129.88 m3	\$5,40 m3	\$9.04 m3	\$144.32 m3
TIMBER SLABS (CUT IN FOREST)				· · ·
Measured in the square	\$129 88 m3	\$5.40 m3	\$9.04 m3	\$144.32 m3
Garden Paving Rings	\$0.45 ca			\$0.51 ca
HARDWOOD BURLS		3		
Diameter		· · · · · ·		
Up to 250mm	\$3.07 ca	-	-	\$3.07 ca
251mm-500mm	\$6.14 ca			\$6.19 ca
501mm-750mm	\$12.27 ca			
751mm-1000mm	\$24.55 ea			
1001mm - 1250mm 1251mm - 1500mm	\$49.08 ca			
	\$98.17 ca	\$0.92 ca		\$100.63 e:
1501mm-1750mm or greater	\$196.33 ea	\$1.52 ea	32.34 ea	\$200. 39 e;
PINE AND EUCALYPT DEBRIS		•	•	
Shires	- -	· · ·	-	Free
Private sales	\$1.01 /t	\$ 0.55 / t	\$1.84 /t	
			· · · · · ·	
PINE NEEDLES	•••			
Domestic use	· -	. -	-	Free
Commercial use	. –	-	.	\$0.22
		· .		(per bag)
MISCELLANEOUS CRAFTWOOD		 A state of the sta		
i.e. Dead Hollow Stumps, hollow 1	ogs –	-	-	\$0.56 c
		•		

Listed rates apply to all hardwood species unless otherwise stated.

SCHEDULE 4 SCHEDULE OF ROYALTIES MINOR FOREST PRODUCE

Fence Posts\$0.24 eachStrainers\$0.63 eachRails\$0.63 eachStist\$0.63 eachStrate\$5.27 per 100Bean Sticks\$1.25 /m3Strate\$1.079 per 100Brush\$1.25 /m3Christmas Bushes\$0.63 eachFiring Sticks\$0.24 (ach)Sandalwood Chips & pieces\$1.01 / tonneSandalwood Seed (cleaned)\$1.25 /m3Sandalwood Seed (cleaned)\$1.99 /kgSandalwood Seed (cleaned)\$1.99 /kgSandalwood Seet (cleaned)\$1.99 /kgSandalwood (speciality timber)\$6.82 /kgPine & Eucalypt Debris -Shires Free -Private Sales(incInforest & Roading charges)\$34.00 /10 t.truc orSPECIALITY TIMBER6 months: up to 3m3\$11.15 6 months: up to 40m3A. Craft Licences 1 month: up to 3m3\$11.15 6 months: up to 40m3\$111.45B. Green Standing & Dead (All Species): per dubic metre Royalty Inforest Roading Total 4easured in round\$32.47\$1.35ARDWOOD BURLS\$10.79 ea.1001mm-1250mm DIA.\$49.08 ea.Jp to 250mm DIA\$3.07 ea.1001mm-1250mm DIA.\$49.08 ea.251mm-500mm DIA\$6.14 ea.1251mm-1500mm DIA.\$49.08 ea.251mm-750mm DIA\$12.27 ea.1501mm-1950mm DIA.\$196.33 ea.		
Wheatbelt (excluding Dryandra and Highbury State forest), and South Coast Regions.Operative from 1 January 1990Firewood - commercial (inc. Mesquite) - Golden Mile Timber\$7.00 /tonneSining Timber (Mulga) round - up to 75mm dia. 76mm and over\$0.63 /10 metresMining Timber (Eucalypt) round - including Golden Mile Timber up to 125mm dia. 226mm and over\$0.63 /10 metresSawn Timber\$0.63 /10 metresStrainers\$1.12 /10 metresStrainers\$10.79 /m3Sawn Timber\$10.79 /m3Sean Sticks\$1.25 /m3Sonda Ilos\$1.27 per 100Brush\$1.25 /m3Sinda Iwood Chips & pieces\$1.60 /10 metresSanda Iwood Chips & pieces\$4.68 /kgSanda Iwood Seed (cleaned)\$1.99 /kgSanda Iwood Seed (cleaned)\$1.99 /kgSanda Iwood Seed (cleaned)\$1.99 /kgSenda Iwood Seed (cleaned)\$1.99 /kgSanda Iwood Seed (cleaned)\$1.99 /kgSanda Iwood Seed (cleaned)\$1.99 /kgSanda Iwood Seed (All Species): per cubic metre - Private Sales(incInforest & Roading charges)\$34.00 /10 t.true orSPECIALITY TIMBER\$1.15 / 6 months: up to 3m3 / 511.15 / 6 sole (claaned)\$11.45 / 511.45 / 51.25 /m3 / 51.20 /10 metresSPECIALITY TIMBER\$2.26 /f\$36.08 / 51.25 /m3 // 51.20 /10 /10 /10 /10 /10 /10 /10 /10 /10 /1	CALM Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne, Grenoug	h, Goldfields,
and South Coast Regions. Operative from 1 January 1990 Firewood - commercial (inc. Mesquite) - Golden Mile Timber Mining Timber (Mulga) round - up to 75mm dia. 76mm and over Mining Timber (Eucalypt) round - including Golden Mile Timber up to 125mm dia. 126mm to 225mm 226mm and over Sawn Timber Fence Posts Strainers Rails Ti Tree Sawn Sticks To frist mas Bushes Firing Sticks Sandalwood Chips & pieces Sandalwood Sept Cicleand) Stadalwood Sept Cicleand) Sandalwood Sept Cicleand) Specif Licences 1 month: up to 3m3 Sill.15 6 months: up to 20m3 Sill.15 6 months: up to 3m3 Sill.15 Solos Still Silling Silling Silling Creat Licences 1 month: up to 3m3 Silling Silling S	Wheatbelt (excluding Dryandra and Highbury	State forest),
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Appendix 7.

Letter from Gerard Early, Acting Director, Australian Heritage Commission, 19 June 1990.



53 Blackall Street Barton ACT 2600

GPO Box 1567 Canberra ACT 2601 AUSTRALIA

Phone 062 71 2111 Fax 062 73 2395

19 June 1990

and the second products and

Dr Syd Shea Executive Director Department of Conservation and Land Management PO Box 104 COMO WA 6152

Dear Dr Shea

I thought you might be interested to see the attached press release I have just issued about last night's "Four Corners" program. I was dismayed to see the references to the Australian Heritage Commission. About the only accurate comment was that we declined to be interviewed!

I will be taking up separately with the ABC the misrepresentation of our position which occurred in the program.

Yours sincerely

Gerard Cerly

Gerard Early Acting Director



Phone 062 71 2111 Fax 062 73 2395

Media Release

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION REFUTES "FOUR CORNERS" STORY

The Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) today denied the claim made in last night's "Four Corners" that it is "frustrated, impatient and angry" with the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). The Commission's Acting Director, Mr Gerard Early, said he was particularly disappointed that the allegation was made on national television because he had specifically rejected it when it was put to him by the "Four Corners" team.

"The Commission is also concerned at other aspects of the program", Mr Early said. "There was a clear implication that a private consultant, Mr Paul Llewellyn, was speaking on behalf of the Commission when he was being interviewed. Office footage was also represented as being the Commission's premises in Canberra. Neither is the case."

Mr Early said that Mr Llewellyn had done some work on contract for the Commission but had no official connection with the Commission and was not its spokesperson.

Mr Early was also concerned that the program misrepresented the nature of the Register of the National Estate.

"Listing of a place in the Register is essentially an alerting mechanism by which the special heritage values of a place are brought to the notice of decision-makers, planners, owners and the general community. The Register is not a land management system" said Mr Early.

"There is no denying that there have been differences of view between the AHC and CALM in the past", Mr Early said. "However, the two organisations continue to discuss a range of issues of mutual concern including forestry matters."

Contact: Gerard Early (06) 271 2111

Appendix 8.

Letter from F J Hingston, Officer in Charge, CSIRO, 2 March 1988.

2 March 1988

Dr S Shea Executive Director Department of Conservation and Land Management WA Hackett Drive CRAWLEY WA 6009

Dear Syd

Thank you for your note about the "Earthworm" broadcast. I did not hear the program and unfortunately Nick Malajczuk, who is Martin Pearce's supervisor, is currently overseas. Martin has spent several years on a PhD study of <u>Armillaria Luteobublina</u> in karri forest and the potential for using other wood decay fungi for its biological control. In collaboration with Martin and Nick, Dr Earl Nelson (USDA Forest Service) has been in Western Australia for a year studying the potential of <u>Trichoderma</u> species for biological control of <u>Armillaria</u>. Nick is more qualified to answer the technical aspects of your queries than I am, but I have discussed your concerns about the interview on "Earthworm" with Martin,

The term "karri dieback" was, I believe, coined by Peter Hunt for the interview. I share your concern about such emotive and imprecise descriptions of forest disorders. I know that your staff have been well aware of the occurrence of <u>A. luteobublina</u> in the forest and that its presence could be viewed neither as emergence of a "new disease" nor as evidence of impending disaster for the karri forest. The other controversial points arising during the interview are probably due to misunderstanding perhaps combined with a small amount of editing of the original discussion. I am sure there was no intention on Martin's part to mislead and no implied criticism of the professionalism of forestry operations by your staff.

Peter Hunt's statement on page 10 of your transcript that "karri dieback is only now starting to be noticed because the regrowth forests are coming on from cutting over in the last 10-15 years" was his interpretation based on discussions with Martin prior to the interview and reading of the paper by Pearce, Malajczuk and Kile, "The occurrence and effects of <u>Armillaria luteobublina</u> in karri (Eucalyptus diversicolor F. Muell.) forests of Western Australia". I am enclosing a reprint of the paper for your perusal. Reports by Kile and co-workers (eg. The significance of <u>A. luteobublina</u> species in eucalypt diebacks. In "Encalypt Dieback in Forests and Woodlands" edited by K M Old, G A Kile and P C Ohmart (CSIRO Melbourne)) of increased <u>Armillaria</u> activity after tree felling operations in the eastern states forests are quoted in the paper. As you know this is also commonly reported in other parts of the world. In the paper the possibility of increasing damage to karri regrowth stands is raised but the statement is made that "the significance of the pathogen in reducing forest productivity will be clarified only over an extended period and area of forest". The study showed over an extended period and area of forest". The study showed death of karri saplings and understorey caused by <u>A. luteobublina</u> and the degree of association with infected stumps. Martin sent reprints of the paper some time ago to Department of Conservation and Land Management officers at Manjimup, Como and Dwellingup, presented a talk at the Manjimup office in June or July 1986 and a field inspection was conducted.

The statement in the interview, "It's very widespread but occurs in patches. Fatches can be from 200 square metres to 2 square kilometres", was referring to the occurrence of the fungus and not observed symptoms of disease in karri. The apparent juxtaposition of dieback and the statement about areas is unfortunate and may be due to editing.

Martin tells me the extent of distribution of the fungus is best observed between late May and mid June when the <u>Armillaria</u> fruiting body production is at its peak. He would be happy to take you on a tour of inspection at that time if you are available.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

F J Hingston Officer-in-Charge Western Australian Research Croup

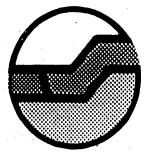
Appendix 9.

"Forests for Tomorrow -Your Decisions" 1988.

Appendix 10.

Letter from N J Halse, Chairman, NPNCA to Select Committee on Land Conservation 2 May 1990.

NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



Mr J D Mandy Clerk to the Committee Select Committee on Land Conservation Parliament House PERTH WA 6000

Dear Sir

Enclosed please find responses to the specific questions addressed to me by the Select Committee in my role as Chairman of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.

I apologise for the delay in replying but this was unavoidable, as I have been in hospital as a result of an accident.

I would particularly emphasise that the preamble- to the specific answers to the questions must be read in conjunction with those answers and also that the NPNCA answers must be supplemented by specific factual information from CALM.

Yours faithfully

Hola

N J Halse CHAIRMAN

2 May 1990

Enc

HACKETT DRIVE CRAWLEY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA TELEPHONE (09) 386 8811 All correspondence to be addressed to Department of Conservation and Land Management. P.O. BOX 104, COMO 6152.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LAND CONSERVATION

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS PUT TO MR N HALSE AS CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Preamble

The questions asked cover a wide spectrum of matters which are of vital concern to the NPNCA. We are pleased to answer these important questions. However, virtually none of the questions, and therefore the answers, have any direct relevance to the terms of reference of the Select Committee. If the Committee comes to the view that the NPNCA should have a greater role in land use and soil rehabilitation, the Authority would be pleased to give this specific consideration a further response.

The role of the NPNCA is largely to serve as a separate and independent source of advice to the Minister on a range of matters within the Conservation and Land Management portfolio. Although the Authority works in very close cooperation with CALM, it nevertheless retains this independence. For this reason the replies to the questions have been prepared without the cooperation of CALM. As a result I have not included detailed factual information on activities such as "friends of the parks" or park advisory committees. Such information is more appropriately and more accurately available from CALM.

The Organisation

- (1) CALM's dual roles in managing the Conservation estate and State Forests for timber production are not considered to be incompatible. These two roles would only be incompatible if CALM were given a further responsibility to meet a specific part of Western Australia's timber requirement. In the absence of such a responsibility CALM manages the forest in the best way for long term production and multiple use and then makes available the timber production from such management.
- (2) The combination of nature conservation activities with the other duties of CALM means that expertise and information on nature conservation is easily available within the organisation and is applied everywhere in its management activities.
- (3) The NPNCA is involved in the Lands and Forest Commission's activities by reviewing the Regional Management Plans for the forest regions and through the nature conservation responsibilities of NPNCA, which apply everywhere throughout the State regardless of the land tenure. In practice this does not mean that the NPNCA has a high level of monitoring of Lands and Forest Commission activity.

- (4) Local groups and the voluntary conservation lobby watch activities in the State Forest. Such groups often use the NPNCA to pursue questions on management. CALM always investigates such cases and I believe the outcome usually improves everyone's understanding of the issues.
- (5) The NPNCA, like many Government bodies, suffers from shortage of resources. This limits its ability to initiate activity. However, it has initiated actions such as the introduction of Wilderness Zones in national parks and a draft policy for wilderness areas for CALM and the NPNCA.
- (6) The NPNCA does have some powers in practice in relation to the need to approve activities on or changes to, the Conservation Estate. It does not have any specific powers in respect to additions to the Conservation Estate.
- (7) I believe the NPNCA is a very effective body. Unfortunately because its role is largely advisory to the Minister, its activities are not well known to the public.
- (8) I do not think any substantial changes are needed to improve the performance of the NPNCA. Some additional resources would be of benefit by enabling better public knowledge of the role and activities of the NPNCA. This would be done by appropriate publications or the arrangement of particular seminars or meetings to discuss NPNCA activities.
- (9) Unless there is gross incompetence in CALM and the NPNCA, there should not be any need for the EPA to oversee the protection and management of the Conservation Estate. CALM has the expertise resident within the State Government on nature conservation and the management of conservation lands, and the NPNCA has a broad base of knowledge and interest in these activities. The NPNCA is expected to monitor the ongoing management of these areas by CALM. Indeed, this is an increasing component of NPNCA activities.
- (10) Policies of CALM are referred to the NPNCA in draft form before adoption. In some cases amendments have been made. These policies are not put out for public or EPA assessment before adoption but it is expected that when an appropriate assembly of policies has been completed, these will be published for public information.
- (11) The NPNCA has been involved with CALM in the consideration of policies both for the management of conservation land and for nature conservation generally in Western Australia. These policies which would be common to both NPNCA and CALM would be of considerable long term value in Western Australia. In particular, the Nature Conservation Policy clarifies a number of important issues.

Resourcing

- (12) I do not think that it is useful to comment on the adequacy of the number of National Park rangers. Without question, if more National Park rangers were available they could be usefully deployed with benefits to both Conservation Estate management and the public. On the other hand I do not think that additional National Park rangers would necessarily be the highest priority for additional staff resources in CALM.
- (13) This question can more usefully be addressed to CALM.
- (14) One of the particular characteristics of National Park rangers is that unlike most other Government workers with long-term careers in Government, the National Park rangers are wages employees belonging to the Miscellaneous Workers' Union. I think that in the longer term future, there could be some benefit from the reconsideration of all the industrial conditions covering field staff employed by CALM and the qualifications required by such staff.
- (15) In general, the management of nature reserves requires much less resources than management of national parks, which have heavy use by people. Most nature reserves do not have regular, on the ground management presence by CALM. For this reason it is not possible to precisely determine any need for additional resources. In many cases additional research needs to be carried out before new management requirements could defined. For this reason a higher priority may be for additional research resources, before nature reserve management can be approved.
- (16) With regard to precise information on the proportion of time spent on different duties by National Park rangers, CALM is in a much better position to provide answers.
- (17) The training of National Park rangers should include most of the types of in-service training listed in the question, but ideally this should be imposed on a basic level of training which all rangers should have on entering in this activity.
- (18) CALM is currently promoting the formation of "friends groups" to improve voluntary assistance programmes. CALM would be in a better position to provide details.
- (19) Consultative and Advisory Committees have been mainly concerned with particular national parks. In some cases such committees have been formed to assist in preparing the management plans for the national park. There are both benefits and penalties in establishing such committees. One of the difficulties is in satisfying the Advisory Committee once it has been formed, that it is being given sufficient autonomy. This is naturally very difficult, recognising the very broad section of the Western Australian community which has a genuine interest

in all national parks. It is not practical to try to represent those people, often living distant from the park, on an advisory committee.

- (20) I believe that a fair balance is struck by CALM in allocating resources between its 'conservation' and 'production' activities.
- (21) I am only generally aware of the allocation of resources between CALM regions. I have no reason to consider that the balance is not appropriate, but I could not provide any detailed comments.
- (22) I am generally aware that there would be some benefits from a broader distribution of powers under the CALM Act to various categories of CALM Officers. I-do support having these powers allocated to various categories of officers, but I believe the details of such arrangements are better discussed with CALM staff.

<u>Nature Conservation - Reserves</u>

- (23) Existing national parks and nature reserves are not adequate to ensure the long term conservation of terrestrial ecosystems and ecotypes in Western Austrália.
- (24) The question of which ecosystems are under represented in the Conservation Estate is a detailed one which would have to be addressed in a long and comprehensive report. However, two areas of particular concern are as follows.

Firstly, the Wheatbelt. Because of the high degree of clearing for agriculture, there is serious under representation of the Wheatbelt, particularly the Eucalypt forest areas formed on heavy land. All such areas currently uncleared should be preserved and it is suggested that adequate funding should be provided for a serious attempt to regenerate a substantial reserve using land that has already been cleared in association with some remnant vegetation.

Secondly, the Kimberley area is not adequately represented in the Conservation Estate because the Conservation Through Reserves Committee, which did such an excellent job for Western Australia, did not really adequately consider the Kimberley and such obvious areas for conservation, as the Bungle Bungle massif, were not even included in the CTRC Recommendations. Many other areas in the Kimberleys need to be preserved.

(25) South west wetlands and estuaries are not adequately represented in conservation reserves because these highly desirable areas were quickly sought out from early settlement, and in general have been allocated to other purposes or have been taken into private land tenure. However, a variety of other management arrangements now exist, such as that represented by the Waterways Commission, which do much to see that the conservation values of the south west wetlands and estuaries are preserved. The current mining proposal in the Lake Muir wetland is an example of the serious residual problems we have.

- (26) The Wandoo and Jarrah forest types are probably some of the most safely protected natural systems in the Conservation Estate in terms of reserves.
- (27) The question of rare and endangered plant species is one that takes up a considerable amount of time in the NPNCA. Some NPNCA members have specific interest and expertise in this area and work closely with CALM officers. Although there is cause for concern about the status of some plants, the NPNCA believes that the system being adopted is satisfactory.
- (28) The situation with respect to protection of Western Australia's rare and endangered fauna is a very difficult one. The loss of mammalian fauna is disastrous and is well known. On the other hand the status of Western Australia's invertebrate fauna is little known and the research and survey resources are just not available to remedy this gap in our knowledge. There are sure to be many more problems than we currently know.
- (29) The NPNCA cannot take measures to resolve these problems because it does not command the kind of resources which would be needed. It provides advice to CALM as well as the Minister through frequent discussion of these topics. Certainly CALM is sympathetic to the needs of rare and endangered species in Western Australia.
- (30) The general perception of the farming community about small nature reserves is an issue that would be best referred to the farming community. However, it is my personal belief that farmers have not been very sympathetic to small nature reserves and traditionally regard them as havens for pest species, having relatively little value from a conservation point of view.
- (31) If it were possible to change farm management to support nature reserves, I believe one important step would be to minimise summer grazing of farm land adjacent to the The biggest danger to these small reserves is reserves. Weeds are not a from fertiliser and weed intrusion. great problem without fertiliser, but wind erosion from adjacent farm paddocks will provide both weed seeds and fertiliser and this could permanently surface soil plus • 5 change the flora of the nature reserve and thus render it ineffective. This wind erosion is often unavoidable following summer grazing of pastures or stubbles. Both cropping and grazing of paddocks in winter, adjacent to the reserves, are not likely to 'provide any particular problems for the reserves.
- (32) I think that community perceptions are already changing about the value of small nature reserves, as farmers are themselves taking much more interest in the preservation of remnant native vegetation on farms, and are starting to replant themselves in many cases.

- (33) Forest diseases are a very serious problem for national parks and nature reserves.
- (34) I am unaware of the extent to which wildflower picking is causing or exacerbating the problem of disease in the Conservation Estate. It is considered that licensed wildflower pickers may well be phased out in time as planted wildflowers become the main source for commercial use.
- (35) The extent to which recreational use of the Conservation Estate is exacerbating the spread of soil diseases is one which CALM has considered at length. I believe that the methods adopted by CALM are sensible and well based and any further details could best be discussed with them.
- (36) The NPNCA takes a particular interest in CALM's dieback research programme and many members have attended a number of seminars on this topic. We believe that the research is broad and well directed and could only be improved if additional resources were to become available. Such resources of course, would then have to be allocated between a whole range of demands of which soil disease research is only one.
- (37) It is unavoidable that the public and particularly the voluntary conservation lobby, will suspect CALM of adopting a forestry bias or approach to the management of conservation land. This is a result of the long years of argument and debate when the Forests Department was following Government policies which were opposed by the voluntary conservation lobby. Under the present policies I believe that CALM is endeavouring to use all methods to best achieve good conservation land management. The NPNCA frequently debates management practises and has chaining firebreaks in specifically looked at the Fitzgerald River National Park, as a possible method. We supported the methods which the Department has have adopted in these cases.

Nature Conservation on Freehold Land

- (38) The NPNCA is not directly aware of the current level of land clearing in Western Australia because this land clearing is taking place on land already alienated for agriculture. Without doubt the remnant native vegetation has a value for nature conservation and the NPNCA would support any moves to encourage retention of this remnant vegetation.
- (39) From a nature conservation perspective the issue of continued land clearing depends on the specific area concerned. It is quite possible that some areas of land could be cleared with little or no danger to flora or fauna conservation. Indeed, probably most of the damage has already been done in areas such as the over-cleared central Wheatbelt. However, continued land clearing on any substantial scale on Crown land appears to have been rejected by the community and the Government - nor is there any strong support from agricultural interests.

- (40) The role and ecological significance of remnan vegetation on farms in the south west and agricultura regions is mainly as a corridor for the movement of biot from one area to another. In most cases the remnan vegetation is of too small an area in itself to provide safe long term habitat for particular species.
- (41) The NPNCA considers that nature conservation objective can best be achieved by having a secure network of nature reserves and national parks of adequate size. Without doubt the additional biota which can exist on farm land, particularly if it is managed sympathetically, will be of value to the public and enhances the quality of that farm land. As mentioned above, remnant vegetation can provide valuable movement corridors.

(Ecological) Management of State Forests

- (42) The ecological research carried out by CALM on different forest types should be discussed directly with that organisation. The NPNCA has specifically satisfied itself that the amount of research carried out by CALM in forest areas is at least adequate compared to the amount of research carried out generally throughout Western Australia.
- (43) The NPNCA was involved in reviewing the Forest Region Management Plans and at the same time, looked at the Timber Strategy for Western Australia, which was made publicly available at that time. The conservation of the forest ecosystem is best preserved in conservation reserves and the NPNCA believed that such reserves were set aside adequately for the various forest types. The management of areas for forest production and multiple use is therefore of secondary importance to nature conservation, compared to the specific reserves set aside for this purpose.

It has to be recognised that although the security of some of these reserves is qualified, this is an unavoidable legacy of the agreement with Alcoa undertaken by a previous government. I believe that taken as a whole, the reserves are both adequate and secure enough in practice.

The issue of even-age trees applies in the karri forest where the proportion of conservation reserves is the highest in the forest.

(44) The NPNCA has frequent discussions with CALM on burning strategies both for forests and non forest areas. The NPNCA is constantly pressing for more research on the effects of burning, or the various burning regimes required to achieve specific management objectives. CALM does have an active programme of research on burning and its effect on ecology. Members of the NPNCA were able to recently review this in a substantial seminar on CALM's current research programmes. The only long term answer to the many questions on burning is to get specific research information as to the impact of the various burning regimes so that the best regimes can be adopted to achieve the various management objectives for different areas of land.

(45) Conservation values for forest areas as stated previously, are best achieved by having conservation reserves in these areas. The NPNCA believes that there is an adequate network of conservation reserves in forest areas. However, the question of conservation in the forest areas, is made very much easier than in many other areas, because there is so much additional land being managed in a sympathetic way. Comments on question 4 are also relevant here.

Appendix 11.

Press release by NPNCA, 20 June 1990

NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

"The recent attack on the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority by the Conservation Council of WA was really a restatement of old prejudices which have no basis in reality," said Norm Halse, Chairman of the Authority.

He said that the attack was clearly associated with the biased forest management in Western Corners program on Four Australia. The target of the attacks was the Department of associated and Land Management and its Conservation controlling bodies including the Authority. Some of the Conservation Council's statements were factually incorrect, some showed lack of knowledge of the management system for the conservation estate, and some appeared to be deliberately malicious.

Mr Halse said that some members of the Conservation Council have maintained their opposition to CALM and the NPNCA since the formation of these bodies was first proposed. The achievements over the last five years were being ignored and this recent attack was merely a restatement of the original prejudice.

"The NPNCA has served a valuable role over the last five years in supervising the management plans for a large part of the conservation estate. This had included ensuring that the resource was preserved and resolving the many conflicts between a variety of interest groups in the community," said Mr Halse.

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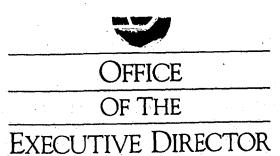
Contact: Norman Halse 4505492

HACKETT DRIVE CRAWLEY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA TELEPHONE (09) 386 8811

All correspondence to be appressed to Department of Conservation and Long Management P.O. BOX 104, COMO 6152

Appendix 12.

Letter from Executive Director to Dr Graham Chittleborough 25 June 1990.



Department of Conservation and Land Management Western Australia Hackett Drive, Crawley, Western Australia 6009. Telephone (09) 3868811, Telex AA94585, Facsimile (09) 3861578.

Dr Graham Chittleborough 24 Watt Street SWANBOURNE WA 6010

Dear Graham

I have known you for a long time, and long respected your inherent concern and expertise on environmental matters, especially in the marine area.

I am therefore at a loss to understand how you can say publicly, as you did on the Four Corners program, that I forced a decision on a group of senior CALM scientists and managers about the road, river and stream zones. Specifically, I am very disappointed that you claim we propose to halve the reserves system. This is simply not true.

In fact, the sequence of events has been open, it has involved the EPA, and it is still in progress.

In December 1987, the Regional Management Plan for the Southern Forest Region stated (pll) in part that:

- * No changes will be made to the existing system without evaluation and approval by the EPA.
- * ... the zones will not be subjected to clearfelling.
- However, selective cutting in the zones, which has been practiced throughout the period since the EIS was approved, will continue. (This refers to the thinning of even-aged regrowth stands which originated from clearfelling and regeneration 50-odd years ago).
- * There will be no decrease in the area of the existing road, river and stream zones. (I have repeated this statement publicly many times - see CALM News article which appeared on the program).

A review of these strategies, foreshadowed in the regional management plan of December 1987, was prepared in March 1988.



This review contained a proposal to reduce the width of principally road reserves to the width accepted by the EPA in 1973, ie half the existing width, and to extend the number of streams covered so that the total area of the road, river and stream reserves system remained the same. As in the regional management plan, no changes were to be implemented until evaluation and approval by the EPA.

In recommendation 3 of their bulletin 329 of July 1988, the EPA say that they accept in principle the proposal by the Department of CALM to introduce flexible management to road, river and stream zones. The EPA wants CALM, after public consultation, to submit a detailed proposal to it for environmental impact assessment. We are in favour of this procedure.

I repeat that no changes have been made to the system since it was introduced in the mid 1970s.

With respect, Graham, I cannot see the basis for your public statement denigrating myself and CALM's approach to management of the road, river and stream zones. Our approach is open and subject to EPA review.

The Department has been asked to prepare a detailed report on the Four Corners program. We have already received correspondence from the Australian Heritage Commission and the CSIRO in which they disassociate themselves from the way they were presented on the program. It is quite possible that you have also been misrepresented by clever editing. I would be very happy to hear from you on this issue.

Attached are extracts from various documents on this subject.

Yours sincerely

And

Att

Syd Shea EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

25 June 1990

In addition, a number of 'imposed' activities must be provided for, e.g. community services and public utilities (roads, reservoirs, power lines), and minerals, where mining on CALM land has been approved under the Mining Act or Special Agreement Acts.

Finally, lands managed by CALM are an important 'resource' for research, scientific study and education, and provision must be made to ensure these activities can proceed.

PRIORITY ZONES

Every area within a land use plan proposed by CALM is allocated a priority use. This is the value which is most favoured by:

the specific attributes of the ecosystem;

the location, or accessibility of the area;

public demand for various uses;

the purpose for which the area is vested.

An area will often be suited to a number of uses. Uses which can be carried out in addition to, and without conflicting with, the priority use are called <u>compatible uses</u>. Compatible uses can occur on the same area at the same time.

Uses that can be compatible with the priority use if practised under certain constraints (i.e., at certain periods or at very regulated levels) are referred to as conditional uses.

Uses which will always conflict with the priority use are referred to as incompatible uses. These cannot be permitted on the same area at the same time.

CALM follows two basic rules in the allocation of uses to an area:

any use allocated must be in accord with the tenure and purpose of the area; and

no use may be permitted which is detrimental to the priority use.

Within State forests, priority use areas were historically referred to as Management Priority Areas (MPAs). On other tenures, priority areas have been called zones. The term zone is now favoured for all tenures and will henceforth also be applied to State forests.

LAND USE PRIORITIES AND COMPATIBILITY

Six land use priorities (or zones) are recognised in the preparation of land use plans for CALM lands:

Nature conservation; Recreation; Protection (of water catchments or other forest values); Production (zoned for water, timber or other products); Mining (where this is 'imposed'); Public utility.

In Table 1 the compatibility between these uses is set out. Table 2 shows the broad relationships between land uses and reserve categories.

The Special Situation of Road, River and Stream Zones

A system of zones along major roads, rivers and streams was developed in the mid 1970s for State forests in the Southern Forest Region. The system was incorporated into the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Marri Woodchip Project which was prepared by the Forests Department and subsequently approved by the Environmental Protection Authority. The system was designed to provide these primary values: Vistas of forest for people driving through the region along major public roads;

buffer zones between logging areas and major watercourses;

a network of relatively undisturbed forest at the local level for fauna habitat, especially birds dependent on mature trees for nests, and as a source of fauna for the recolonisation of regrowth forest.

This system has been successful, but can be improved. Wildlife and hydrological research over the last ten years, together with more detailed knowledge about visitor patterns, have highlighted the need to consider a re-arrangement of some areas managed as road, river and stream zones. Preliminary analysis has shown that a restructure of the system, without any change in total area of zones, can be made so as to maximise the protective, conservation and aesthetic value of the system.

During the period of this plan it is proposed that an intensive review of road, river and stream zones in the region will be undertaken with the objective of improving their efficiency in providing amenity, wildlife habitat and stream protection. Commitments with respect to the review are:

No changes will be made to the existing system without evaluation and approval by the Environmental Protection Authority. The new system will include a provision that road, river and stream zones will not be subjected to clearfelling. It had previously been considered that it may have been necessary to clearfell sections of the road, river and stream zones to compensate for timber volumes foregone as a consequence of the termination of timber production in the Shannon River Basin. However, selective cutting in the zones, which has been practised throughout the period since the EIS was approved, will continue.

There will be no decrease in the area of the existing road, river and stream zones.

TABLE 1 COMPATIBILITY OF LAND USES

Alternative uses

Priority Use zone

	Nature				
	Conservation	Protection	Recreation	Production	
Nature Conservation		Compatible	Conditional	Not Compatible	
Protection	Compatible		Conditional	Conditional	
Recreation	Conditional	Conditional		Conditional	
Production	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional		

Specifically the Authority concludes that there is scope for WACAP to produce up to 750,000 tonnes of woodchips from resources in South-Western Australia. The limits to producing woodchips from old-growth forest outlined in the Timber Production Strategy are:

1708

1980 - 1990, 583,000 cubic metres 1991 - 1995, 553,000 cubic metres 1996 - 1998, 442,000 cubic metres

The shortfall between woodchips derived from old growth forest and from the quantity sought by WACAP would be made good from thinnings from regrowth forest, or eucalyptus plantations on private properties.

The Authority further considers that, subject to the above, the conversion of timber resource into woodchips and their transportation and export are environmentally acceptable.

The Authority's recommendations are:

RESOURCE FROM INTEGRATED HARVESTING OPERATIONS

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RECOMMENDATION 1

The Environmental Protection Authority considers that there is no rational justification for confining the taking of wood chip resource to the existing Woodchip Licence Area. The recommendations in this Report should therefore be taken to refer to all of the Northern, Central and Southern Forest Regions.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Environmental Protection Authority notes the volume of woodchipproduction from old growth forest described in the Timber Production Strategy. The Authority recommends that this be strictly observed.

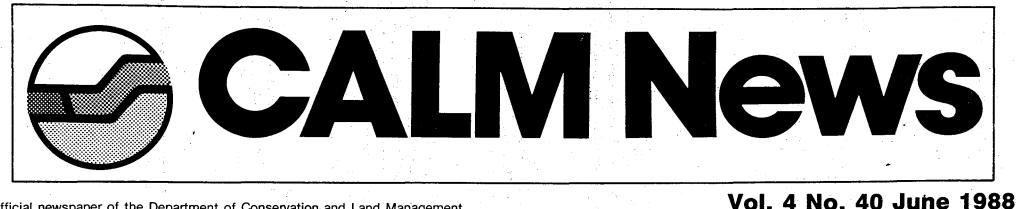
RECOMMENDATION 3

The Environmental Protection Authority accepts in principle the proposal by the Department of Conservation and Land Management to introduce flexible management to Road, River and Stream Zones. The Authority accepts that these zones should be redistributed and managed to protect the values for which they are intended. ie in Road Zones these will include, principally, the protection of visual amenities and the provision of faunal refuges, and in Stream Zones, protection against silt and salt impacts and also the provision of faunal refuges.

The Authority recommends that the Department of Conservation and Land Management consult with the public to develop a detailed proposal for Road, River and Stream Zones to be submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority for environmental impact assessment. No cutting of Road, River and Stream Zones should occur in the interim.

RECOMMENDATION 4

The Environmental Protection Authority recommends that the Department of Conservation and Land Management, as part of the review and referral to the



Official newspaper of the Department of Conservation and Land Management

RECENT criticism of CALM over false claims made by environmental groups and some members of the tourism industry that the Department proposes to halve the karri stream, river and road reserve system must be defended.

The Department has made a number of recommendations in a review of the system - entitled The Road. River and Stream Zone System in the Southern Forest of Western Australia - which has been submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority.

The EPA are reviewing the proposal and will submit a recommendation on whether to accept the proposal or not to the Minister for Conservation and Land Mangement, Barry Hodge.

CALM's submission proposes a redistribution of road, river and stream zones to imrpove the conservation of flora, fauna and the hydrology of the southern forest.

SW zone system — the facts

This proposal is based on extensive scientific research undertaken since the reserve system was introduced more than 15 years ago.

The research indicated that conservation and hydrological values would be better protected if the zones were reallocated to favour streams.

Under our proposal the total area of the new system will be the same as the existing one.

An additional consideration for CALM was how to maintain contractual arrangements with the timber industry following the State Government's decision to reserve the Shannon Basin as a national park.

As the existing road zone system is twice the width required by EPA — that

By SYD SHEA

is, twice the width required by law -it was suggested that the deficit in timber supplies could be made up by clearfelling the road reserves to 200m on either side of the roads.

This suggestion was rejected. There will be no clearfelling.

Following a careful evaluaton of all timber resources during the preparation of the Timber Strategy it is now proposed to selectively cut some of the outer areas of some of the road and river reserve system, that is in some areas within the zone that are furthest from some roads.

Rather than detracting from the forest the proposal is expected to benefit the

forest in a number of ways.

In particular is the added protection of stream zones where the best examples of forest can be found and where fauna is most abundant and diverse.

The thinning of the road reserves will improve the growth of the forest within the reserves while the regeneration of those areas selectively cut will provide a multi-tiered forest in both age and size that will provide nesting hollows for both birds and mammals as the older trees die.

Water quality will be maintained while increased protection of streams will reduce sedimentation.

The aesthetic values of the forest will be maintained and in some cases improved by the use of landscaping prin-

ciples in the forest along roadways.

The river and stream zones were established because they were known to be areas of high biological diversity as well as to protect watercourses.

CALM's recommendation will enhance and expand this protection.

Road zones were established to maintain a vista for travellers of undisturbed forest ... this will be maintained and in some places improved.

Environmentalist claims that these buffer zones will be clearfelled are not supported in CALM's proposal.

Claims that the forest will be clearfelled to provide timber to be chipped is also wrong.

It should be remembered that under the terms of the Department's Regional Management Plans and Timber Strategy about 50 per cent of the karri forest is now either in national parks, nature reserves or in an area zoned with a priority for conservation and recreation.

CYCLONE DELAYS

Appendix 13.

Transcript of part of ABC Regional Radio (Bunbury) morning program with Sharon Kennedy interviewing Mark Colvin. by the timber industry and not just in the south west that there is some inherrent economic good in having a timber industry and we were having a look at that proposition particularly in relation to the kind of prices that the timber industry pays for its raw material.

- 2 -

Thats the question that has been brought up over here for oh many times by very many people, not just Tony Drake. Who were some of the other people that you talked to for the programme.

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Well we've spoken to well in one sense it is difficult for me to tell you that because I spoke to a very large number of people within the timber industry and within the Conservation and Land Management department. I was given a great deal of information which I was able to use in an off the record sense but quite clearly this is an extremely sensitive issue and many more people spoke to me freely off the record than were prepared to speak to me on the record.

Yes thats very interesting. We had someone talk to us on talk back to the programme last week who was a little reluctant because they were part of the timber industry. Why is that do you think?

It is probably easier for you to judge the answer to that question over there than it is for me. I certainly found that scientists for instance within the Conservation and Land Management department were very reluctant to come out and speak because they were afraid they told me of the kind of retaliation that might be taken against them or against lets say relatives or friends of theres who still work within the department, even people who have left the department still find it quite hard to speak out. There is a prevailing feeling that the department is fairly unforgiving of people who express contrary views to its own.

The sorts of pressures also extend to the Four Corners programme don't they. Its been very interesting shall we say to look at the reaction to a programme that hasn't even gone to air yet, just the number of calls that have come into this station here in Bunbury. I mean what sort of pressures are put upon you as you do these sorts of stories.

Well, I would say nothing out of the ordinary, I mean everytime Four Corners does a story people do want to get their views across. We certainly have been deluged with faxes from people particularly wanting to

Appendix 14.

Media statement by Bob Pearce Minister for the Environment 21 June 1990 and letter from John W Stocker Chief Executive of CSIRO, 21 June 1990.

MIMMEDIA STATEMENT

BOB PEARCE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND LEADER OF THE HOUSE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ENP70/90 21/6/90

MEMBER FOR ARMADALE

The CSIRO had rejected allegations on Four Corners this week that its scientists had complained about CALM withholding information, Environment Minister Bob Pearce said today.

He said that the Chief Executive of the CSIRO, Dr John Stocker, disputed the programme's assertion that CALM and the CSIRO did not co-operate.

Dr Stocker wrote to CALM'S Executive Director, Dr Syd Sheat "...I and the CSIRO scientists concerned in the programme value CALM's co-operation highly".

Four Corners made much of the allegation that CALM had not co-operated with the CSIRO, Mr Pearce said.

But Dr Stocker said that the claim that CALM had obstructed the CSIRO had been made by the reporter and that at no time did the CSIRO scientists who appeared in the programme say anything to this effect.

Dr Stocker also said that "in some instances comments by CSIRO scientists were taken out of context".

Mr Pearce said this came after an unequivocal rejection of the Four Corners line that the Australian Heritage Commission was in conflict with CALM by Mr Gerard Early, the Acting Director of the Commission.

It would be honourable for Four Corners to applogise publicly for its programme after rebuttals by nearly all the groups concerned with it.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

18TH FLOOR, ALLENDALE SQUARE, 77 ST GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH, W.A. 6000. TEL: (09) 325 9422



Chief Executive

Limestone Avenue, Cañberra, ACT. Postal Address PO Box 225, Dickson, ACT 26C Telephone (06) 276 6621. Telex AA 62003 Fax (06) 276 6628

21 June, 1990.

Dr S. Shea Executive Director Department of Conservation and Land Management PO Box 104 COMO WA 6152

Dear Dr Shea

INVOLVEMENT OF CSIRO SCIENTISTS IN FOUR CORNERS PROGRAM

Dr Roy Green has drawn my attention to your facsimile message of 19 June 1990 about the contribution of CSIRO scientists to the Four Corners program shown on the 18 and 19 of this month.

I should like to point out that the CSIRO scientists said only that there had been a difference of opinion between them and CALM scientists about the categorisation of some one thousand plant species on the rare and threatened list as being "poorly known".

The CSIRO scientists did not claim that CALM had not provided them with the information necessary for their review, as is stated in the press release accompanying your facsimile. A statement that obstruction by CALM had been a problem was made by the reporter in introducing a segment featuring Dr Leigh of CSIRO, but at no time did either he or Mr Briggs say anything to this effect.

I enclose a copy of the transcript of the segment involving the CSIRO scientists. I see nothing there which CSIRO needs to retract.

A careful reading of the transcript will show that while the Four Corners reporter may have claimed that obstruction from CALM has been a problem, no such intention could be ascribed the CSIRO scientists concerned. In some instances comments by CSIRO scientists were taken out of context.

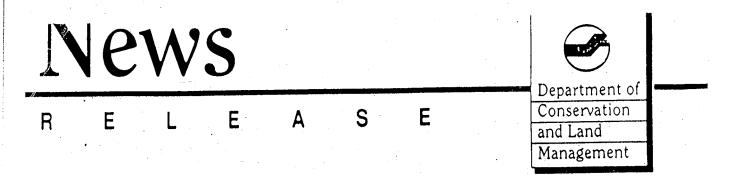
Research Advancing Australia

I regret the distress which the program has caused to you and CALM scientists and assure you that I and the CSIRO scientists concerned in the program value CALM's cooperation highly.

Yours sincerely

John W. Stocker

1. Executive Director



CALM SCIENTISTS UPSET BY FOUR CORNERS PROGRAM

"CALM research scientists are upset at being misrepresented on the ABC Four Corners program last night," said Dr Andrew Burbidge, Chief of Research in CALM.

On the program, two CSIRO botanists claimed that CALM had not provided them with the information necessary for a review of Rare and Threatened Australian plants which they were coordinating.

Dr Burbidge said "Western Australia has had endangered flora legislation since 1980. We were the first State to have such legislation and until Victoria passed their Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act recently we were the only State in Australia with such legislation. CALM has the best data base on endangered flora anywhere in Australia and has readily provided all its data (except the exact locations of declared endangered plants) to the CSIRO. CALM has carried out extensive surveys of endangered plants in Western Australia over the last 15 years has recently published a book "Western Australia's and Endangered Flora" which provides details on all rare and endangered plants. CALM has also recently published a management program for all endangered plants in the Northern Forest Region and is developing similar programs for the other forest regions. Suggestions that CALM is secretive in this regard are ridiculous, " Dr Burbidge said.

The Four Corners program inferred that many endangered plants are threatened by timber operations, especially clearfelling and replanting in the karri forest. Dr Burbidge said this is not the case. Only nine out of 238 declared endangered species in Western Australia occur in State forest in the Southern Forest Region and none of these are threatened by logging.

Contact: Dr Andrew Burbidge, phone 405 5100.

Appendix 15.

Glossary from Southern Forest Region Regional Management Plan page 66 illustrating typist's error.

THE ERROR IN

Exotic: A plant introduced from another locality. Not indigenous.

Fauna: Animal life.

TRANSCRIPTION WAS MADE READING FROM THIS PAGE ...

[SEE NEXT PAGE]

Feral: An introduced or domestic animal now living in the wild.

Flora: Plant life.

Forest: An ecosystem characterised by a more or less dense and extensive tree cover.

- Geology: The science which investigates the history of the earth's crust, from the earliest times to the commencement of the historical period.
- Geomorphology: The description and interpretation of landforms.
- Group Selection: A silvicultural system in which the crop is felled in small groups either to permit regeneration to develop or to release advance growth.
- Hardwood: The timber of broadleaved trees, and the trees themselves, belonging to the botanical group Angiosperms, e.g. Eucalypts.
- Hydrology: The study of water movements, quality, distribution and utilisation, above, on and below the ground.
- Interpretation: The process of communicating the significance (bringing out the meaning) of an area by describing and explaining its characteristics.

Jurassic: Period of geological time, from about 135 million to 195 million years ago.

Landform: All the physical, recognizable, naturally formed features of land, having a characteristic shape; includes major forms such as a plain, mountain, or plateau, and minor forms such as a hill, valley or alluvial fan.

Landing: A site at which logs have been accumulated for the purpose of loading on to a hauling K vehicle. THESE TWO SECTIONS BECAME.

- Laterise: The weathering of rock/soil which leads to the removal of silica and alkalies, resulting in a soil or rock with high concentrations of iron and aluminium oxides (laterite).
- Mature forest: The stage at which a stand best fulfils the (main) purpose for which it was maintained e.g. produces the best possible supply of specified products.

Mesozoic: Era of geological time from about 65 million to about 245 million years ago.

- Monadnock: An isolated hill or mass or rock which stands above the surrounding country because its rock has been more resistant to erosion than the rock of the area.
- Multiple use management: The use of land, especially forest land, for several different purposes. Some types of use are compatible with each other, but others may not be compatible, in which case it is necessary to set a priority or even exclusive use for a particular area.

Objective: A specific statement of measurable results to be achieved within a specific time period.

Permian: Period of geological time from about 240 million to about 280 million years ago.

Pests: Troublesome or destructive animals, including insects, either introduced or native.

Plain: An extensive area of level or gently undulating land, usually of low altitude.

Plateau: An extensive, level or mainly level area of elevated land.

IN THIS

logging : Felling and hauling of logs.

mature forest : The stage at which a stand best fulfils the

(main) purpose of loading on to a hauling vehicle,

prescribed burning : The application of fire to land under such conditions of weather, soil moisture, time of day and other factors that will result in the controlled spread and intensity of heat required to accomplish specific silvicultural, environmental or fire hazard reduction objectives.

rare species : Less than a few thousand reproductively mature specimens are known to exist in the wild.

regeneration : The process of forest renewal, or the plants resulting from natural regeneration process.

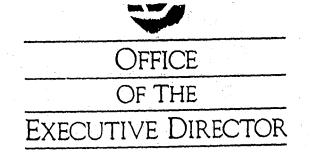
regrowth : Regeneration at the sapling or pole stage of growth.

salinity : The concentration of dissolved salts in water.

sawlog : A log of suitable size and grade to produce sawn timber.

Appendix 16.

Letter to Mr David Hill, Managing Director, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 20 June 1990.



Department of Conservation and Land Management Western Australia

Hackett Drive, Grawley, Western Australia 6009 - Telephone (09) 3868811, Telex AA94585, Facsimile (09) 3861578.

Mr David Hill Managing Director Australian Broadcasting Commission PO Box 9994 SYDNEY NSW 2001 Fax (02) 3\$6-0575

Dear Mr Hill

You are undoubtedly aware that the Four Corners program that was shown on Monday evening, 18 June, which featured the southwest forests of Western Australia, has caused considerable controversy. I will be writing to you formally registering our extreme concern at the bias and misrepresentations contained in the program.

I am writing to you, however, on a personal matter. I am totally disgusted with the way the Four Corners team used my child to launch a personal and snide attack on me. The details of what happened is attached in a copy of a letter to the Federal President of the Australian Journalists Association.

I am writing to you to request a public apology for the way the Four Corners team exploited myself and my daughter as part of their campaign to discredit me.

Since I was a teenager, I have been a fan of the ABC and particularly the Four Corners program. It saddens me that your organisation contains people who are without ethics.

Yours sincerely

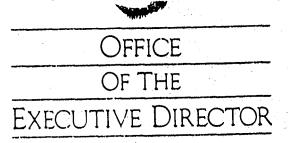
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Syd Shea EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

20 June 1990

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Department of Conservation and Land Management Western Australia

PLACKETE Drive & Funder Western Annuale octor Telephone (N) 3808811. Telex AA94585. Facsimile 2091 386 1578

Mr Barry Porter President Australian Journalists Association FAX (02) 281 4360

Dear Mr Porter

You are undoubtedly aware that the Four Corners program that was shown on Monday night which focused on the forests of south Western Australia has provoked considerable controversy. My Department will be making a formal submission to the ABC and the Commonwealth Ombudsman which will detail the gross bias and distortions in the program. I will be providing you with copies of this submission.

The matter I would like to raise with you immediately, however, concerns me personally. Towards the end of the program, the presenter commenced a personal attack on myself. The program showed film of me with a baby and the presenter made the comment "Shea is widely acknowledged as the real power in the State's forests. He wields considerable clout in the ruling Labor Party, and he has the politician's knack of kissing babies when there's a camera about." Copy of a transcript of this section is enclosed.

What Mr Colvin did not inform the viewing public was that the Four Corners team had asked me to pick up a baby to get a general shot and that the baby was my own. Apart from the fact that this segment has caused my own family personal distress, a number of journalists, including members of the ABC in Perth have expressed disgust at the tactics of the Four Corners team.

Mr Colvin, I note in a public statement, has claimed that I wanted my baby filmed. My concern was not that my baby was filmed, but that I was deliberately set up and that she and I were used to substantiate a snide comment.

It is particularly galling that the Four Corners team stooped to this level because I went out of my way to assist them when they were in Western Australia and in particular to make myself available for the interview.



When they first arrived in Western Australia, I was asked to set aside a time on Tuesday, 5 June. Later in that week, I received an apologetic call from Mr Colvin stating that his assistant had got it wrong and would I be able to do the interview on Monday, 4 June. I pointed out that Monday was a holiday and that on each of the three previous weekends I had been working and had had no time with my family. Notwithstanding this, I agreed to do the interview on Monday, 4 June, commencing at 8.30am. My wife and young daughter came because they had anticipated having a picnic with me that day. It is a fact that I joked with the Four Corners team that they should do the interview with my daughter on my knee to "soften my image".

The interview was prolonged finishing at approximately 11.30am to 12 noon.

They then requested the opportunity to film me and my Minister at a function being held in another part of Perth at lunch time. I agreed and provided them with a map.

It was then that I was asked to pick up my baby "because she had been so good during the morning" so that they could obtain their general vision.

I believe what the Four Corners team did was totally unethical and I hope that you will be able to make some public statement disassociating ethical journalists from the Four Corners team,

Yours sincerely

Syd Shea EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

20 June 1990

Encl

To get higher recoveries, you actually have to employ more people in the long term.

MARK COLVIN: After decades of protection, Bunnings is extremely resistant to the idea of having to pay a free market price for timber.

BOB BUNNING: Well, you've got a total uncertainty, if for a source, every year, the future of your business depended upon you putting up your hand at an auction, you wouldn't have a business.

But, what about the people, you know, our company employs, 3500 people, and about 2500 depend upon forest industry.

MARK COLVIN: The jobs that are supported by protecting the industry, are exceptionally lowly paid.

The Timber Industry Award is one of Australias lowest. Many Bunnings workers are below the poverty line.

It means Federal Government Family Welfare Payments, topping up the incomes of the poorest, amount to yet another hidden subsidy for the industry.

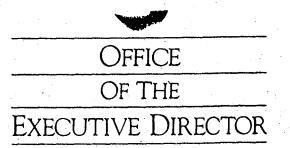
Western Australias Parks and Wildlife, like Western Australias trees, are effectively in the hands of one man, Syd Shea, a public servant, who's already out lasted several of his ministers.

Shea is widely acknowledged as the real power in the states forests. He wields considerable clout in the ruling Labor Party, and he has the politicians knack of kissing babies when there's a camera about.

But when the Resource Assessment Commission comes over from Canberra, Syd Shea may have under-estimated what he's dealing with,

SYD SHEA: We've had the Resources Assessment Commission, not all the commissioners, but a commissioner and their staff; and we took them through the forest; much of the forest that you saw today, they acclaim what they saw.

all monitored material must not be disseminated in any way



Department of Conservation and Land Management Western Australia Hackett Drive, Crawley, Western Australia 6009. Telephone (09) 3868811, Telex AA94585, Facsimile (09) 3861578.

Mr David Hill Managing Director Australian Broadcasting Commission PO Box 9994 SYDNEY NSW 2001 Fax 02 356-5344

Dear Mr Hill

2.

I would have thought that Mark Colvin, if he could not apologise publicly for his unethical use of my daughter, would have at least remained silent. Instead Mr Colvin is desperately trying to regain credibility by scurrilous statements to the press. I refer particularly to an interview that Mr Colvin conducted on ABC radio in Western Australia on the Kevin Hume "Drive-Time" program run yesterday. I attach a copy of the transcript.

For the sake of clarity, I will deal with Mr Colvin's comments point by point:

 As I have stated in my previous correspondence to you, I had no objection to my baby being included in a general vision shot. What I objected to was the use of that vision with the following voice-over -

> "Shea is widely acknowledged as the real power in the State's forests. He wields considerable clout in the ruling Labor Party, and he has the politician's knack of kissing babies when there's a camera about."

The Four Corners' producer asked me to pick up my baby "because she had been so well behaved during the morning".

Does Mr Colvin expect you and those journalists in the ABC who have ethics to believe -

"He's the first person I've ever known to demand that we do an interview with him with the baby sitting on his knee.

It makes it extremely difficult, as you can imagine, to do television interviews, so we demurred." (See transcript). The facts are as I stated previously, I arrived at the interview with my family because as a special favour to Mr Colvin I agreed to do the interview on a public holiday when they were expecting to go on a picnic. When the Four Corners team arrived, I went out of my way to be pleasant although I had a fair idea that the outcome of the program wouldn't be favourable to me. To create the right atmosphere, I jokingly said "Could I do the interview with my daughter to soften my image." There were further references to my daughter because she was playing in the room next door to where the interview was being conducted.

Do you really believe Mark Colvin's statement that I "<u>demanded</u>" to have my daughter on my knee for three hours while he conducted the interview?

3. Mr Colvin also states in the interview that I stipulated that when they went to the subsequent environment day festival in Cannington, I insisted they did not interview my Minister who would be there. This is true. The request for general vision was made at the end of my interview. Although my Minister knew I was doing the interview, he had no knowledge that the Four Corners team would be turning up at a function that he was officiating at unannounced. In fact, I thought it was gracious of me to allow them to go to Mr Pearce's luncheon, because in my mind I was worried that I would have placed my Minister in an embarrassing situation.

The point that my Minister made on Gerry Gannon's late night show was that Four Corners had not approached him at all during the time they had visited Western Australia for a comment. What Mr Colvin attempted to do was to suggest that I was responsible for Four Corners not approaching my Minister, because hours before the crew was about to leave I requested they not take my Minister by surprise at a function where the objective was to take general vision shots.

4. Mr Colvin also deliberately misrepresents the incident that occurred involving the Minister for Education, Mr Geoff Gallop. I was talking to Mr Gallop at the function and Mr Gallop pointed out to me that the Four Corners crew had a boom microphone placed near me and were also filming. I obviously was not prepared to have my private conversation with a Minister of the Crown recorded without my knowledge. Consequently, I asked the film crew to move away.

As a permanent Head of a Department, I am quite prepared to accept that I am fair game to the media on work matters. I do not believe, however, that the Four Corners crew had the right to exploit my family. I hope the ABC will at least try to redress the personal , distress to my family that their actions have caused by abologising.

I will not be making any further public comment on this incident. I had to issue a press release because I was aware that Mr Colvin was making public statements which were mischievous and incorrect. I will be providing copies of this letter, however, to my Minister, the Federal Minister for Communications and the large number of people who have rung me personally, including many from the ABC, expressing their concern at the ethics of the Four Corners team.

Yours sincerely

Syd Shea EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

21 June 1990

Encl

J. GRIFFIN PTY. LTD, Incorporating MONITORING PERTH MEDIA P.O. Box 42, North Perth, 6006, Phone 328 9915.

-				•	
Date;	20/06/90	Programme:	DRIVETIME		• •
Time:	5.00pm	Presenter:	Kevin Hume		
Source:	6wf	n			·
Subject:	Four Corners'	programme	controversy.		

It is reported that:

<u>KEVIN HUME</u>: Well, on Monday night it might have been a programme about the way our precious native forests were being managed in the State's South-West, but it's rapidly becoming "the affair of Syd Shea's baby".

Mr (sic) Shea's the executive director of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and he feels, I guess, understandably "put through the wringer" by Four Corners, Four Corners showing on Monday night CALM as more concerned with logging than forest conservation, with favourable deals of milling giants, Bunnings, than the little operator in the field, with secrecy over the real state of those forests, and with poor forest management that helps, not hinders, the spread of dieback.

Well, last night Syd Shea, in what might politely be called a rambunctious fall, had a go at conservationists and critics of his management and, in particular, at Four Corners themselves.

SYD SHEA (CALM): The programme really reflects very, very poorly on the professionalism of the ABC. It was a scurrilous programme and people, Kevin, talk about the

2/...

Department being the Coward's Castle. The real Coward's Castle appears to be in the editing room of the ABC Four Corners producers.

HUME: And Environment Minister, Bob Pearce, who was the silent presence in that Four Corners programme, last night on Gerry Gannon's Show on 6WF had this to say.

BOB PEARCE (Environment Minister): ... the broad specturm of people who have views about the forest, and that one extreme end, of people like Dr Schultz, who would rather not see a tree touched. That is, that they are opposed to the timber industry, and they just want to see the forest preserved.

At the other end, I guess there are people who chop down every tree they saw and send it off to Japan.

Now, we're not proposing to accept either of those extremes, but we recognise the right of people in our kind of democracy to have those views at either extreme.

What's important to us is striking the balance, and I think if Four Corners are going to come to Western Australia they ought to at least do us the courtesy of discussing what our policy is, and our efforts to strike that balance, and then trying to make a judgement about whether that balance had been struck or not.

HUME: The big guns in action there - Bob Pearce, the Environment Minister; before that CALM boss, Syd Shea.

Well then, of course, is the whole of business of the baby that was shown at a barbecue at Four Corners, and the man who's report has caused the whole stir, Mark Colvin. Mark, let's start with that baby. There's a bit of controversy already. Syd Shea raised it last night on Drive. Was Four Corners trying to set up Syd Shea with the "baby-kissing" exercise, if you like, without his knowledge and consent?

- 3 -

<u>MARK COLVIN</u> (Four Corners journalist): Kevin, I understand that the accusation against us is that we set Shea up by that, and I am really - what can I say flabbergasted by that allegation.

We spent a morning with Syd Shea doing an interview with him. He had brought the baby along to the interview.

Heasked us at least, well, ten to a dozen times to film him with the baby, to film the baby with him.

He's the first person I've ever known to demand that we do an interview with him with the baby sitting on his knee.

It makes it extremely difficult, as you can imagine, to do television interviews, so we demurred.

He then asked us along to - we accompanied him to a, what we call in the business, a "photo opportunity" which was happening that day at a park.

We were filming him talking to a member of the West Australian Cabinet. He took great exception to that, and asked us to film him doing something else.

We said, "What?", he said, "What about with my baby?", we said, "Okay".

4/...

The idea that we set him up is quite extraordinary to me.

HUME: Now, there's a further point relating to that Cabinet Minister you referred to - Environment Minister, Bob Pearce, who last night on Gerry Gannon's Show here in Perth complained also why didn't you want to talk to him?

<u>COLVIN</u>: I don't know who is giving Bob Pearce his information, but it was he who suggested we set up Syd Shea and this, again, comes from him.

As I say, I don't know where he's getting his information from, but let me tell him that, when we went to that photo opportunity at which he was present, we went with Syd Shea on the condition imposed by Syd Shea that we not do an interview with Bob Pearce.

That was a stipulation laid down by Syd Shea , and I may say that there are four of us in the crew, and there's absolutely no question in any of our minds that this is the case.

I'm talking about the truth. I'm not just making a loose allegation here.

HUME: Now, a further a wider point that Syd Shea raised last night on this programme, on Drive, that you'd refused to acknowledge what he called the "enormous strides" that CALM had made under his management in terms of preserving forests. Is that a fair point?

<u>COLVIN</u>: I don't believe it's a fair point. We did refer, on several occasions, in the film to positive aspects of CALM's management. We went out of our way to say, yes, indeed, that they were planting more trees than they were cutting down, for instance, and planting quite a lot more on cleared land, and so forth.

- 5

But, as I pointed out in the film, the debate wasn't about that. It was about the kind of forest management that they were putting in its place, and whether they were production forestry oriented, or whether they were ecologically oriented.

Now, I mean, we are not a public relations operation. We were not there to make a PR film for Syd Shea. We are journalists, and Four Corners has a very high reputation for its journalism, and I believe that we upheld it.

HUME: Well, part of that reputation for good journalism, of course, depends on the thoroughness of one's sources, the thoroughness of the checking of the facts, the thoroughness also with which one makes the statements or claims, and then has backing for them.

Critical question of the information, and the secrecy of information with which CALM, you allege, treats so many of those who want that information.

Yesterday, the Heritage Commission, who seemed to have had, according to your programme, difficulty in getting forest information from CALM.

That Commission yesterday said they were misrepresented on the programme. Were they?

<u>COLVIN:</u> I, again, find it remarkable to hear that coming from the Australian Heritage Commission. We had repeated conversations with him. - with them. 'One of our researchers even went to Canberra to speak to them; it wasn't just in terms of telephone conversations.

- 6 -

We, as I say, repeatedly spoke to them and we were very, very anxious to get back to them, which we did several times, to make sure exactly what we could say on and off the record.

Now, what we said was said in the knowledge that we had spoken to the Heritage Commission, and under those circumstances.

Given that what we were given was off the record, and it was not off the record but was unattributable, I'm reluctant to go further and tell you who exactly we spoke to, obviously, but if they are actually denying that what we said was true, I find it really remarkable.

HUME: Now, there's a further point, of course. Bob Pearce intends, I gather, taking you to the Ethics Committee of the Australian Journalists' Association.

The last time that Four Corners came to Western Australia and created something of a comparable stink, if you like, was over the question of black deaths in custody.

That resulted subsequently in a Royal Commission. I wonder whether, in fact, that great weight of tradition on the part of Four Corners might have influenced the way that you approached this particular subject.

<u>COLVIN</u>: There are two points there, Kevin. The first is that, as I understand it, this proposal to take us to the Ethics Committee relates to the business of the

7/...

allegation that we set up Syd Shea with the baby, and. I believe that I've effectively refuted that.

We did not. If anything, it was the other way around. We were repeatedly requested to film him with the baby.

On the other side, what can I say? We've been accused over the last couple of days of being "Eastern States" media", which I understand in some circles in Western Australia is the most poisonous accusation you can make!

I hear - my reaction to that is the same as my executive producer, Ian McIntosh's, who used to work in Perth for the ABC some time ago, and he said "Look, I thought we were all Australians".

HUME: I'm sorry, we've run out of time there, Mark. We're going to have leave that discussion there and, hopefully, we'll leave the whole matter of Four Corners and their treatment of that particular argument.

That's it for Drive, thanks for being with us today. I'll be back again tomorrow at four.

Appendix 17.

Letter from Alex Nicholson, Resource Assessment Commission, 8 June 1990.

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ppof w. A. vint 09 3862444;# 2

Dr Shea

Four Corners

Richard Mills (as RAC Head of Office or a RAC spokesman) spoke to Ray Moynahan as discussed and agreed that Four Corners could say "Following a visit to WA forests staff from the RAC Secretariat had said that some of the things CALM were doing were good and innovative but that the RAC had not reached final conclusions or issued a report".

Mr Moynahan pressed strongly for us to comment further on the "acclaim" quote but we declined. He admitted at the end of the conversation that during the interview you had qualified your original remark in your reference to "they acclaimed what they saw". He did not read out your remarks in response to the "seal of approval" question however.

I gather the program is due to go to air in two weeks time.

Regards

Alex Nicolson

Appendix 18.

Letter to Mark Colvin requesting contact with CALM's regional office in Manjimup, 26 May 1990. DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Please address all enquiries to:

Regional Office Brain Street MANJIMUP W A 6258



Your Ref: Our Ref:

Enquiries A Walker

Mr Mark Colvin Four Corners ABC Television

Dear Mark

My Executive Director, Dr Syd Shea, has asked me to contact you to ensure that you obtain a balanced explanation of operations which you are filming in the field.

I understand that you gave Dr Shea your assurance that you would contact me upon your arrival in the southern forest region.

I will be very pleased to help arrange photographic opportunities and to provide an authoritative comment on the context of activities you are filming in the field.

Would you please contact me as soon as you can, so that we can discuss your filming schedule.

I can be contacted during working hours on 097 711 988 or at home on 097 711 338.

Yours sincerely

3 ALAN WALKER

REGIONAL MANAGER

AWW:JED 26 May 1990

Appendix 19.

Letter to Mark Colvin itinerary for Four Corners tour of the forest with CALM, 30 May 1990.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Please address all enquiries to:

Regional Office Brain Street MANJIMUP WA 6258



Your Ref: Our Ref: Enquiries:

[

F15/4 A Walker

Mr Mark Colvin C/- Kingsley Motel 3 Chopping Street MANJIMUP WA 6258

Dear Mark,

ITINERARY FOR ABC "FOUR CORNERS" TOUR

Listed below is a draft 'shot list' and itinerary for Thursday 31 May 1990 to illustrate some of CALM's management activities.

- 0600 Depart Manjimup
- 0700 Burnside Tower

Fire Lookout Tower Vistas of: Shannon National Park Mt Frankland National Park D'Entrecasteaux National Park

0830 Potters Road

Example of thinning in karri regrowth forest.

0900 Northcliffe Information Centre

Interpretive display focusing on Aboriginal heritage. Co-operative development between CALM and Northcliffe Information Centre.

1000 <u>Gloucester Tree</u>

Recreation facility based around an operative tree fire lookout tower. Example of Community Volunteer Assistance Project.

1100 <u>Tramway Trail</u>

Wildlife Management Research in regrowth forests. The area is on unburnt benchmark.

1200 <u>Big Brook Dam</u>

Recreation site development in 60 year old karri forest. Development based aroung Pemberton water supply dam.

1300 <u>Channybearup Road</u>

Eucalyptus globulus plantation. Example of plantation establishment for future wood resources.

1400 <u>West Manjimup Nursery</u>

The State's largest tree nursery and plant propogation centre.

1500 Return to Manjimup.

I hope that we will manage to include most of these items in the time available.

ALAN WALKER REGIONAL MANAGER

AWW:KMW 30 May 1990.

Appendix 20.

Letter to Mark Colvin figures requested at the briefing on 28 May 1990 regarding karri sawlog distribution 30 May 1990.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT



Please address all enquiries to: Manjimup Regional Office Brain Street MANJIMUP WA 6258

YourRef: OurRef: F 1/13 Enquiries: Mr Walker

Mr Mark Colvin ABC Television C/- Kingsley Motel MANJIMUP WA 6258

FIGURES REQUESTED AT BRIEFING ON 28/5/90

KARRI 1ST GRADE SAWLOG DISTRIBUTIONS 1989 AND 1990

COMPANY	PERCENTA 1989 ACTUAL	GE OF TOTAL 1990 ENTITLEMENT ¹
Bunnings	76.0	73.1
Whittakers	14.9	16.5 ²
Worsley Timber Co	3.8	4.7
Gandy Timbers	1.6	1.4
Wesfi	1.7	2.1
Others (8)	2.0	2.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

Footnotes: 1 Entitlements are as at 1/1/90 2 Whittakers 1990 entitlement reflects acquisition of the Denmark mill.

This official data should be compared with the statement on page 2 of the document "Towards a Forest Accord in Western Australia" which says that Bunnings has exclusive access to over 90% of the first grade karri resource.

I hope you find this information of value.

I will be pleased to provide you with any other data or explanations to assist you in compilation of your report.

ALAN WALKER REGIONAL MANAGER

AWW:CB

30th May, 1990

Appendix 21.

CALM Briefing Paper 1/90 Tree Felling in the Shannon National Park



Department of Conservation and Land Management 50 Hayman Road, Como, WA 6152

CALM BRIEFING PAPER 1/90

TREE FELLING IN THE SHANNON RIVER NATIONAL PARK

There have been a number of comments in the media recently about an incident in which trees were inadvertently felled in the Shannon River National Park. This briefing note explains the circumstances leading up to this incident, and indicates the action taken to prevent reoccurrence.

THE BOUNDARY OF THE SHANNON NATIONAL PARK

The boundaries of most national parks are well-defined, surveyed lines, for example high water marks, roads or other easily recognisable physical features. An exception is the Shannon National Park, the boundary of which is the watershed of the Shannon River. This boundary is not marked on the ground, but only occurs as a contour line on departmental maps. This contour line occurs in heavy forest with a tall dense understorey.

When the park management plan was being developed, a proposal to demarcate the watershed on the ground was put forward. The estimate for this task amounted to \$2 million. It was decided that this money would be better spent on other developments within the park.

PREPARATION OF FIRE BOUNDARIES IN THE SOUTHERN FOREST REGION

The tall forests of the Southern Forest Region offer special difficulties for firefighters. These include hopovers generated from dead wood alight in the crowns of very tall trees, trees burning down across roads, or burning limbs falling from dead trees in high winds onto men working below. We have suffered one fatality in recent years and a number of serious near misses, including a tree burning down and falling across a gang truck.

In order to minimise these problems a program of stag removal along burn and fire boundaries was instituted some years ago. In this operation, dead trees, hollow-butted trees or trees with dead crowns adjoining fire boundaries are marked by a CALM officer. Subsequently, logging contractors are employed to fall the trees and harvest any merchantable logs from them.

This operation only occurs in State forest. It does not occur in national parks, nature reserves or areas scheduled to be converted to reserves or parks in the regional plans. In these areas, alternative (but less satisfactory) methods are used, for example raking around tingle trees on the boundary of Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

An operation to thin out hazardous trees took place along the edge of Strachans Road near the northern boundary of the Shannon National Park last summer.

AN ERROR WAS MADE

The watershed of the Shannon River, and therefore the boundary of the Shannon National Park loops across Strachans Road in one place. The CALM officer in charge of this operation was aware of this, but in making his demarcation on the ground he made an error. The boundary between State forest and national park was marked incorrectly by some five hundred metres or so. As a result, an area of several hectares within the park was mistakenly considered to be within State forest. Dead and stag-headed trees were marked within this area, the trees were subsequently felled and the logs removed.

No "logging operation" was authorised within the Shannon Park. This incident occurred entirely as a result of an honest error by a CALM officer, and is regretted by everybody.

COMPLICATING FACTORS

Firstly, the boundary of the park in this area is hard to pick. The area is low-lying and the watersheds of the Shannon River and the Deep River are almost linked by a number of streams and depressions.

Secondly, the area concerned was previously selectively logged many years ago, before the Shannon became a national park. As a result, there are many stumps in the area remaining from the previous operation.

Thirdly, the logging contractor who carried out the job had temporarily mislaid his branding hammer. Consequently, the stumps from the trees which he felled were not branded. However, all logs generated were chalk-marked, permission for this having been given by CALM.

Finally, the eastern side of Strachans Road is a Disease Risk Area (quarantine). However, the operations were correctly carried out under permit and in dry soil conditions, using appropriate hygiene measures.

DISPOSAL OF THE LOGS

The logs generated from this general area were disposed of as follows:

- First and second grade jarrah sawlogs to Franey and Thompson's Mill at Albany.
- First and second grade karri sawlogs to Whittakers Mill at Denmark.
- Chiplogs to the Diamond Mill.

Since at the time it was not known that some of the logs had come from within the national park, no separate accounting of these logs took place.

Parts of some of the trees felled were not sound enough to be converted into sawlogs or chiplogs. These sections have been heaped and burnt as part of standard post logging rehabilitation.

RESTORATION OF THE AREA WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARK

The operation which has taken place amounts only to a light thinning. There is no long-term visual impact on the forest.

Minor soil disturbance caused by log snigging and loading will be rehabilitated next summer.

The area east of Strachans Road is scheduled to be burnt next summer for fuel reduction adjacent to the national park. Understorey vegetation will regenerate following the burn. The area west of Strachans Road has been designated for fuel reduction burning in the Shannon D'Entrecasteaux Management Plan. It is not scheduled to be burned imminently but experience in this part of the world has shown that vigorous regrowth of ground vegetation will still come away on disturbed sites.

ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT REOCCURRENCE

All staff in the Southern Forest Region have been briefed on this incident. The need for extreme care in delineating park boundaries has been emphasised.

The General Manager has interviewed the staff concerned, who are now doubly aware of the need for tight control of all operations in State forest adjoining national parks.

Regional managers for the three forest regions have been instructed to upgrade training programs for staff involved in survey work and to improve control systems applying to fire boundary preparation.

The need to survey and demarcate the boundary of the Shannon watershed is being reconsidered.

CONCLUSION

This was an unfortunate and regrettable incident. All CALM staff are proud of our national parks and under no circumstances would they carry out unnecessary tree felling within them. At the same time, it is most important that we minimise the hazards to staff involved in firefighting and other fire management work in the heavy forest country.

I have asked field managers to confer with all personnel as to how we can best minimise the risks to firefighters, but still preserve important forest values. All suggestions will be welcome.

3 & Ben

Syd Shea EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

6 June 1990

PS This incident was reported to me via the Minister's office. When it was referred to the district office for investigation the immediate reaction was disbelief. The error was only discovered after a detailed check had been carried out in the field.

Thus I can only conclude that the people who reported the incident to the Minister were following our operations very carefully. Subsequently, television crews were led to the scene by these people.

All staff should be aware that all of our operations are under close scrutiny.

Appendix 22.

Letter from J H Towie (licensed surveyor) regarding Shannon National Park boundary,



J. H. TOWIF MIS AUST Licensed Surveyor P.O. Box 435, MANJIMUP. 6258, Telephone (097) 71 1558 A/H (097) 72 4242

26th June, 1990

Mr Alan Walker Regional Manager Department of Conservation and Land Management Brain Street MANJIMUP 6258

Dear Alan,

RE: SHANNON NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY

Further to our meeting in your office last week and my site inspection with Kevin Vear this morning, I have the following comments to make regarding definition of parts of the Shannon National Park boundary.

1. I understand the Park boundary was gazetted by bearing (azimuth) and distance calculated from the water shed boundary of the Shannon River. As the water shed has never been established by ground survey, but interpolated from small scale aerial photography, probably of a map scale of 1:25,000 at the best, the likelihood of ground survey coinciding with the map position of the water shed is extremely unlikely.

It is extremely difficult to accurately define a small contour interval by aerial photography (say 2-5 metres) in the type of topography and vegetation we are referring to unless the country has recently been burnt. The ground is simply not visible by this method unless burnt and the only accurate planimetric detail refers to road and track positions and spot heights.

The contour information would represent the general relief of the area, rather than an accurate position (ie. to plotting accuracy) of ground height.

2. The Department of Land Administration advise me that the legal or gazettal position of the Park boundary could only be accurately defined by traversing from existing control in or adjacent to the Park by using Satellite Geodetic technology and conventional traversing. My advice is that determining the water shed on the ground by physical means would not only produce a probable boundary rather than an exact one but would also have no legal relationship to the Park boundary.

In view of this advice there would be no benefit in proceeding with a survey along the lines we have discussed.

.../2

3. The Department of Land Administration further advise that they may be prepared to assist me in providing additional control points within the Park so that the Satellite stations can be utilised to define portions of the Park boundary.

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4. I am unable at this time to supply you with an estimate to perform this type of survey but will do so if you decide to take this action.

Yours faithfully,

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Appendix 23.

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"Valwood. It turns sows' ears into silk purses.

Appendix 24.

<u>.</u>

Transcript of part of Sattler File Radio 6PR, 26 June 1990. <u>SCHULTZ</u>: We have asked him to come to Western Australia to speak to us, to go around the forest with us, as we have done with the Four Corners people, and show them the side of the story that is the truth. But they won't they won't ...

SHEA: I wish the Four Corners' people had given me that chance.

SCHULTZ: They - they had the opportunity, they ...

SHEA: They didn't, they set us up, Beth, and you set us up with them. I mean...

SATTLER: Were you involved with that Four Corners' team?

<u>SCHULTZ:</u> I gave them names of people to contact, I told them places to go, I gave them documents.

SHEA: (Tries to speak - indistinct)

SCHULTZ: They took it from there....

SHEA: (talks over) Well they wouldn't come to me and ask me for contacts.

SCHULTZ: Because they had them already.

SHEA: Yeah, that's right, from Beth Schultz.

I mean what a - what a really good balanced approach from an indepth team.

18...