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Andrew Brown

Subject:

Please find attached, a copy of the Department's
"Wildflower Industry Review Committee (WIRC) draft report
to Policy Directorate" for your information and comment.

Could you please return with any comments/amendments by the
11th May 1988 to :

Andrew Brown
Wildlife Research Centre
Woodvale.

Andrew Brown

ANDREW BROWN
WIRC - WORKING PARTY
for DR S D HOPPER, CHAIRMAN, WIRC

27 April 1988

POLICY DIRECTORATE SUMMARY SHEET

TITLE OF TOPIC: Wildflower Industry Review Committee (WIRC) -
Draft Report to Policy Directorate.

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:

Major findings and recommendations made by the Department's Wildflower Industry Review Committee, concerning the Development of an improved system for managing the Western Australian Wildflower Industry.

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

Following the 1987 Manager's meeting, at which the Wildflower Industry was nominated as one of seven primary issues which needed to be addressed, a Departmental Wildflower Industry Review Committee (WIRC) was set up to examine many of the problems involved in the wildflower trade, and implement changes to improve industry control and management. This paper presents the major findings and recommendations made by WIRC. WIRC considers that problems identified during the course of the review should be addressed by the establishment of a permanent research programme and other appropriate staff who would be funded from increased licence fees and the introduction of a royalty system. See attached summary sheet for details.

ISSUES: Should Policy Directorate endorse WIRC's recommendations or amend same.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That Policy Directorate endorse WIRC's proposals, including the establishment of a permanent research team. (See attached summary sheet).

NOTIONAL AGREEMENT FROM:

IMPLICATIONS FOR CURRENT BUDGET:

None. Future costs would be met from increased licence fees and the proposed introduction of a royalty system. *FTEB'?*

PROPONENT: Wildflower Industry Review Committee

FORWARDED BY: Andrew Brown and Mike O'Donoghue, WIRC Working Party.

WILDFLOWER INDUSTRY REVIEW COMMITTEE: SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS AND ACTION TO BE TAKEN

| PROPOSAL | COMMENTS |
|--|---|
| 1. Recommend increase in commercial purposes licence fee from \$5.00 to \$100.00. Introduce a royalty system, levelled against the dealer/wholesaler, for flora taken from Crown land. | 1. Submission to Director Nature Conservation recommending increase to \$100.00 dated 15 January 1986. 2. Submission to Divisional Manager, Admin & Finance recommending increase to \$200.00 dated 9.7.1987. 3. Economics Branch in process of developing Royalty system and rate structure for discussion with WIRC and Industry. |
| 2. Licensing of dealers/wholesalers and compulsory submission of returns. | As recommended in Burgman and Hopper's 1982 Report No. 53, and agreed to by Industry at a meeting at Fisheries and Wildlife in 1982/83. Draft dealers return has been prepared. Further action in this regard will be taken when proposed changes to the legislation have been effected. |
| 3. Non-owners to be licenced to sell flora taken from private land. | Proposed amendments to legislation will rectify this anomaly. |
| 4. Examination of licence applicants | 1. Proposed amendments to legislation will require individuals to sit for a test prior to licence issue. 2. Questionnaires have been prepared. |
| 5. Review conditions on commercial purposes licence | Conditions reviewed and amended to include provision for dieback hygiene requirements. |
| 6. Decentralization of Flora licences | Recommended that Commercial picking licences and licence testing be done at CALM Regional/District offices. |
| 7. Preparation of management plan for <u>Boronia</u> species. | Consultants have been employed to review the Boronia Industry and prepare a Management Plan. |
| 8. Revise Policy Statement No. 13 | Amendments have been made to the Policy Statement. Submission needs to be forwarded to Director, Forests. |
| 9. Recommended declaration of non-vascular plants as protected flora. | Submission forwarded to Hon Minister for CALM dated 2 September 1987. Approved by Minister - Gazetted on 9th October 1987. |
| 10. Rewrite Flora Management Plan (FMP)? | 1. Minor corrections already made by Working Party. 2. Rewrite FMP upon confirmation that legislative changes have been approved. |
| 11. Establish a permanent research team who would be funded by proposed fee increases and imposition of a royalty based system. | Requires endorsement by Policy Directorate. |

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

WILDFLOWER INDUSTRY REVIEW COMMITTEE (WIRC)
- DRAFT REPORT TO POLICY DIRECTORATE

1988

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APPENDICES

1. The October 1987 Manager's Meeting - Outcomes and follow up.
2. Submission to Minister seeking increased licence fees and introduction of Royalty System.
3. Copy of Proposed Dealers Return.
4. Copies of Licence Test.
5. Copy of Licence and Amended Conditions.
6. Policy Statement No. 13.
7. Consultant's Report on Boronia. (Not currently available)
8. Royalty Submission. (Not currently available)
9. Table 1: Flora Licences and Revenue.
10. Table 2: Costs of Establishing Permanent Research and Management Teams.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT
WILDFLOWER INDUSTRY - INTRA DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW

1 INTRODUCTION

This paper presents the major findings and recommendations made by the Department's Wildflower Industry Review Committee (WIRC), following an examination of the Wildflower Industry in Western Australia.

WIRC considers that problems identified during the course of the review should be addressed by the establishment of a permanent research program and other appropriate staff who would be funded from increased licence fees and the introduction of a royalty system.

A summary of the recommendations proposed by WIRC are detailed on the attached Executive Summary Sheet.

2 BACKGROUND

From relatively small beginnings the Wildflower Industry in Western Australia has rapidly expanded, resulting in a multi-million dollar export trade. A need to monitor and manage this growing industry led the Western Australian Government to pass the Wildlife Conservation Act and Amendment Acts 1976 and 1979. The Amendment Acts were proclaimed in 1980. They transferred responsibilities for flora conservation from the Forests Department to the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and introduced a new licensing system for commercial harvesting of wildflowers.

In 1981, the Western Australian Wildlife Authority recommended to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife that money from the Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund be made available to engage a consultant botanist. His function was to review activities in the wildflower industry during the first fifteen months following proclamation of amendments to the Wildlife Conservation Act.

The consultant made the following recommendations:

- i) The Wildlife Conservation Act be amended to provide for the licencing of cut flower and seed wholesalers and compulsory submission of returns of flora traded by them.
- ii) The present return forms used by wildflower pickers should be modified, until such time as a wholesaler's licence system can be implemented.
- iii) In the interests of administrative efficiency, allowance should be made in the data handling system for missing data and contact with pickers should not be pursued unless the returns are otherwise valueless in relation to returns or unless there is reason to believe that incorrect information is being submitted deliberately.
- iv) Research projects should be undertaken to analyse the effect of harvesting on several geographically restricted species which are utilised in large quantities by the industry and to ensure that exploited species are adequately represented in nature reserves and National Parks.

2.1 MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

Harvesting of wildflowers and seed is a growing export industry with 1,300 commercial picking licences issued annually and more than 1,300 species exploited.

- Such a high profile industry attracts considerable public interest. Consequently expressions of concern at CALM's inability to manage the industry are common. Moreover, within the industry itself, there is a poor perception of the Department's ability to manage the wildflower trade.

At present a small licence fee applies i.e. \$5, and royalties are not charged apart from a few species classified as minor forest produce. Consequently pickers contribute little to State revenue. This is in contrast to other industries exploiting public resources such as timber, ash, honey or minerals.

Testing for competence is not applied to commercial licence applicants.

- Except for Boronia, pickers are not assigned designated areas for which each alone is responsible. There is thus an unskilled itinerant workforce operating over a large area of the State with minimal supervision or control, save the limited enforcement presence possible from Wildlife Protection Branch.
- The Department is unable to monitor levels of harvesting on private land because of inappropriate legislation. Consequently, statistics on total harvest of individual species are not obtainable.

- The Department is unable to licence dealers or obtain returns from them.
- The impact of pickers in terms of transmission of dieback disease needs urgent investigation.
- Species which are restricted in distribution, heavily exploited, and with poor regenerative capabilities, and those which are poorly represented on conservation reserves need ongoing research and management.
- There are Federal legal requirements to have an approved management plan for exported native flora. Unless amended the plan submitted by CALM to ANPWS annually for the wildflower industry is unlikely to sustain a critical challenge in court. The industry exports 80% of material harvested and this could be terminated by such a court challenge, as happened for the Queensland kangaroo harvesting management plan. Proposals for revising the management plan are discussed in Section 4.9.

Current departmental resources are too small to allow these issues to be addressed.

2.2 CALM'S APPROACH

The CALM Act is an Act inter alia "to make better provision for the use, protection and management of certain public lands and waters and the flora and fauna thereof". The Act - Part IV Sect 33 - (5.33) specifies that the functions of the Department include:

- to manage land and the associated forest produce, fauna and flora;
- to promote and encourage the development of the forest production requirements of the State;
- to be responsible for the conservation and protection of flora and fauna throughout the State, and in particular to administer the Wildlife Conservation Act.

The Department's charter in relation to flora is generally one of conservation. There is nothing in legislation which gives the Department the function of promoting, encouraging or developing the wildflower industry. The Department is given such a function only in relation to timber production. Nevertheless, the Wildlife Conservation Act clearly provides for flora which is commercially utilised.

The Department's approved Regional Management Plans for the three Forest Regions each have the following objective:

To control the commercial harvesting of flora on Crown land and private property within sustainable levels, to minimise detrimental effects on conservation values on Crown land, and to maintain a supply of seed from native flora.

Specifically their aims are to:

- permit picking and seed collection on State forest and Crown land other than nature reserves, conservation parks and national parks, subject to land use priorities and management conditions;

- ensure royalties or collection fees are paid to re-imburse service charges and control collection, wherever it is practicable to collect them;
- licence picking on private property;
- collect data on the range of occurrence of species in commercial demand and investigate their management requirements;
- identify, protect and manage species of rare flora that occur on both Crown land and private land;
- encourage commercial interests to meet the demand for blossom and plants from private nurseries and orchards;
- provide suitable seedlings and seed from Departmental nurseries and seed stores for rural conservation projects where these materials are not satisfactorily available from private sources."

WIRC considers that commercial exploitation of the State's protected flora is consistent with conservation PROVIDED that sufficient resources are made available to effectively control and manage the industry. Such resources, however, are not currently available to either effectively manage the industry or ensure the long term survival of species which are heavily exploited. The provision of additional manpower resources are detailed in Section 4.11.

2.3 LEGISLATION

This section details provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act directly applicable to the wildflower industry.

(i) Protected Flora

Under the Wildlife Conservation Act the following classes of flora are declared to be protected flora (Government Gazette of 9 October 1987)

Spermatophyta (flowering plants, conifers and cycads)
Pteridophyta (ferns and allies)
Bryophyta (mosses and liverworts)
Thallophyta (algae, fungi and lichens).

(ii) Trade in Protected Flora

. Dealers

Florists, nurseries, exporters and others who trade in native flora obtained from licensed pickers are not required to hold a licence unless they are also involved in the taking of flora from Crown and/or private land. It is an offence to sell flora which has not been legally taken and traders are therefore required to ensure stocks are obtained from licenced sources. The Wildlife Conservation Act requires that dealers maintain a legible record of all transactions for a 12 month period which must be produced on demand to a wildlife officer.

. Crown Land

The property in protected flora on Crown land, until lawfully taken, is vested in the Crown.

Protected flora may only be legally taken from Crown Land by persons holding a licence.

Where flora is taken for sale a Commercial Purposes Licence is required.

If taken for purposes other than sale a Licence For Scientific or Other Prescribed Purposes is required. Purposes which are prescribed are scientific and educational; hobby; propagation; and personal enjoyment. This licence is not relevant to the wildflower industry.

. Private Land

Protected flora, both natural stands and in cultivation, may be taken from private land by the owner or occupier, or by a person authorised by the owner or occupier. It may, however, only be sold by the holder of a Commercial Producer's Licence or Nurseryman's Licence. The Department does not distinguish between these licences and issues a single Commercial Producers/Nurseryman's Licence. The owner or occupier of private land may apply for such a licence. However, non-owners, authorised by the owner or occupier to take protected flora, are unable to legally sell that flora as they are precluded from holding the necessary licence.

3. WILDFLOWER INDUSTRY REVIEW COMMITTEE (WIRC)

WIRC was formed early in 1987 to review the management of the Wildflower Industry. The Committee comprises the following CALM staff : -

Dr S Hopper, Senior Principal Research Scientist, Woodvale, (Chairman)
Dr D Coates, Senior Research Scientist, Woodvale
Mr R Sokolowski, Senior Technical Officer
Mr A Brown, Technical Officer, Woodvale
Mr K McNamara, Scientific Adviser, Crawley
Mr D Hampton, Manager, Wildlife & Land Admin. Branch
Mr S Hancocks, Supervising Wildlife Officer
Mr G Heberle, Inspector, Central Forest Region
Mr K Gillen, District Manager, Moora
Mr T Backhouse, Forester, Southern Forest Region
Mr J Bradshaw, Inspector
Mr P Beatty, Senior District Forestry Officer
Mr M O'Donoghue, Senior Clerk Flora (Secretary)

The Committee is supported by an administrative working group composed of Messrs Brown, Hancocks and O'Donoghue and calls on specialist staff to provide advice on specific matters when required.

3.1 ROLE OF WIRC

At its first meeting the committee proposed that its role should be to:

- i) Draft a management program for the commercial utilization of native flora, including both bush harvesting and commercial cultivation for the sale of flowers/stems/seeds.

The aims of the program would be :

- (a) To ensure that commercial harvesting is not endangering the long term survival of WA's native flora.
 - (b) To provide a detailed management program to allow the export of native flora, as required by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.
 - (c) To satisfy the demand of the Conservation of International Trade of Endangered Species.
- ii) Advise on ways to generate additional revenue, thus allowing the Department to more effectively manage the wildflower industry.
 - iii) Provide comment on legislative amendments proposed.
 - iv) Review the Department's administrative input into the management of the wildflower industry including areas of licensing, research, enforcement and the seed store.

The Wildflower Industry was nominated at the 1987 Manager's meeting as one of seven primary issues which needed to be addressed. Specifically, the Department was asked to "develop an improved system for management of the industry and to secure better returns". (Refer to General Manager's memo to Managers dated 4 November 1987). Refer to Attachment (1). WIRC has examined many of the management problems involved in the wildflower trade and has progressively implemented changes to improve industry control and management. The following section provides a summary of its major proposals and action to date.

4. WIRC RECOMMENDATIONS

Major recommendations made by WIRC are detailed as follows:

4.1 DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE

The principle which needs to be applied is that any return to the Department, and State, be maximised, and that there be at least full recovery of total departmental costs. The latter does not happen at present. Revenue figures are given in Table 1. An analysis of FTEs recently submitted by Branch Managers, as a result of the Functional Review Committee's request for detailed information has put departmental costs in respect to the wildflower industry at around \$300,000 p.a.

. Licence Fees

In December 1987 the Hon Minister for Conservation and Land Management requested the Department to undertake a review of licence fees in respect to commercial exploitation of indigenous flora. Such licence fees had not been increased since 1980.

WIRC recommends the following increases.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Commercial Purposes Licence: | from \$5.00 to \$100.00 |
| Commercial Producers Licence: | from \$5.00 to \$ 25.00 |
| Scientific Licence & Other | |
| Prescribed Purposes Licence: | from \$2.00 to \$ 10.00 |

A copy of the submission to the Hon. Minister is attached. Refer to Attachment (2). See also summary of increases in Table One.

This would yield, on 1987 licence figures, \$123,845 (an increase of \$116,641): Actual increases are likely to be less as some pickers may decide not to renew their licences. Additionally proposed royalties will raise approximately \$200,000 p.a.

Licence fees are paid into the Nature Conservation and National Parks Trust Account and may be used for any of the purposes of research relating to the conservation of flora and fauna and for any other purposes relating to the conservation of flora and fauna that are recommended by the Authority to the Minister.

. Royalties

Royalties may also be imposed in the case of licences for commercial purposes, or for scientific purposes or other prescribed purposes. Royalties on protected flora are also paid into the Nature Conservation and National Parks Trust Account.

Increased fees, plus the introduction of a royalty system, should stimulate greater interest in the establishment of private wildflower farms which may reduce demand for bush-picked flora. Royalties will not apply to flora taken from private land.

Representatives of the industry itself support licence fee increases as a means of promoting greater "professionalism" by pickers and the deterring of amateur operators. Figures showing the industry's capacity to pay are not available. However, it is clearly a multi-million dollar industry. The increased revenue will fund the establishment of the proposed research team as discussed in 4.11.

Recommendation 1

That Policy Directorate note recommended licence fee increases and the proposed introduction of a royalty based system.

4.2 LICENSING OF DEALERS/WHOLESALERS AND COMPULSORY SUBMISSION OF RETURNS

Originally recommended in Burgman and Hopper's 1982 Report (No. 53) and supported by the Industry.

The Hon Minister for Conservation and Land Management has approved amendments to the Wildlife Conservation Act which will include provision for a dealers licence. Conditions applicable to the new licence will require the submission of monthly returns. Refer to Attachment (3) for copy of Dealers return.

A wholesalers' return system would provide more complete data on total volumes of material taken. In addition, there are far fewer wholesalers than pickers, most wholesalers operate from premises in Perth and are therefore easier to contact. Wholesalers' identification of species traded are more reliable than those of the largely transient picking workforce.

A wholesalers' return system would be easier to monitor and enforce and it would cost less to process the information reported. Since wholesalers are obliged to keep a record of each transaction involving purchase of flora from pickers, it would be possible to investigate exploitation of species declared rare.

Licensing of dealers will be implemented once amendments to the Wildlife conservation Act are gazetted.

Recommendation 2

That Policy Directorate note that the Hon Minister has approved an amendment to the Wildlife Conservation Act which will provide for the licensing of wholesalers/dealers with compulsory submission of returns.

4.3 SALE OF FLORA TAKEN FROM PRIVATE LAND

A licence providing for the sale of protected flora from private land by non-owners is not provided for in the Act.

Non-owners authorised by the owner or occupier of private land to take protected flora are unable to legally sell that flora as they are currently precluded from holding a Commercial Purposes Licence. Non-owners are therefore not required to submit flora returns resulting in incomplete statistical data.

Amendments to the Wildlife Conservation Act approved by the Hon Minister for Conservation and Land Management will address this anomaly by providing for the licensing of non-owners who take and sell flora from private land with the owner's approval.

Recommendation 3

That Policy Directorate note the Hon Minister has approved an amendment to the Wildlife Conservation Act which will provide for the licensing of non-owners who take and sell flora from private land.

4.4 EXAMINATION OF LICENCE APPLICANTS

There are no specified grounds under which a person may be refused the issue of a licence apart from a conviction for an offence under the Act. Any person may, in the prescribed form and on payment of the prescribed fee, apply for a licence to take protected flora from Crown Land.

At the request of industry representatives a simple test is proposed for license applicants to determine their knowledge of the flora sections of the Act and licence conditions. The test would be structured in a similar way to applicants applying for a learner's permit under the provisions of The Road Traffic Act. That Act requires that the applicant "...has a reasonable knowledge of the traffic laws of the State..." (Section 42(d)).

Proposed amendments to the Wildlife Conservation Act approved by the Hon. Minister will require applicants for Commercial Purposes Licence to complete a test prior to the issue of the licence. Multiple choice questionnaires have been prepared. Refer to Attachment No (4).

Recommendation 4

That Policy Directorate note the Hon Minister has approved amendments to the Wildlife Conservation ACT which will require licence applicants to demonstrate they have a reasonable knowledge of the flora provisions of the Act and licence conditions.

4.5 COMMERCIAL PURPOSES LICENCE; CONDITIONS REVIEWED

In examining the conditions endorsed on the above licence WIRC identified a number of shortcomings.

These included the omission of conditions pertaining to dieback disease, the taking of protected flora with no commercial value, the taking of protected flora in a manner which renders it unsaleable, and/or which will destroy or jeopardise the survival of the parent plant, the extending or cutting of new tracks through virgin bush, and the taking of protected flora from road and rail reserves.

Amendments were made to a number of conditions and new conditions added which were prioritized according to their relative importance. Refer to Attachment (5) for copy of licence conditions.

Recommendation 5

That Policy Directorate note the above amendments to the Commercial Purposes Licence conditions.

4.6 DECENTRALIZATION OF FLORA LICENCES.

Currently all commercial picking licences are issued at State Operations Headquarters in Como. However, a number of concerns have been expressed by CALM staff

regarding the need for Regional/District Officers to be fully aware of pickers operating within their Districts. It is imperative that the Department operate efficiently and maintain control over pickers particularly in respect of land under CALM jurisdiction as well as other Crown land.

With the introduction of licence testing and the traditional allocation of picking areas within State forest and Timber Reserves it would be desirable for pickers to obtain licences from their nearest District Office. Most pickers operate outside the Metropolitan Region and would not be disadvantaged by the decentralisation of flora licences.

Recommendation 6

That Policy Directorate approve the issuing of commercial picking licences and licence testing from CALM Regional/District Offices.

4.7 BORONIA: MANAGEMENT

In 1987 approval was given to employ two contract botanists for an 8 month period to undertake a review of the boronia picking industry. The review was commissioned after concern was expressed about the level of commercial exploitation and the impact that picking had on the species. Monies from the National Parks and Nature Conservation Trust Fund were used to fund the project.

The consultants were asked to :

- Document historical data from departmental files and reports including J A Thomson's 1969 Boronia Survey.
- Define areas of State forest where Boronia is commercially harvested. Contact to be made with CALM officers at Manjimup, Walpole, Harvey, Kirup, Pemberton, Collie, Busselton, Albany and Nannup.
- Undertake experimental harvesting trials to determine effects of picking.
- Determine impact of fire, dieback.
- Map distribution range, for both species of Boronia, including extent on conservation reserves and commercial wildflower farms e.g. J Colwillis development.

- Set up permanent quadrats to enable future monitoring by CALM staff.
- Prepare a draft management plan and a technical report.

The consultant's report has yet to be completed. WIRC considers that this report be referred to the proposed research team for analysis and implementation of approved recommendations.

Recommendation 7

That Policy Directorate refer the Boronia consultant's report to the proposed research team, when available.

4.8 TAKING PROTECTED FLORA IN THE KIMBERLEY REGION - POLICY STATEMENT NO. 13

Policy Statement No. 13 was reviewed by WIRC to address a number of anomalies which conflicted with departmental administration of other species of protected flora. Refer to Attachment (6).

For example the policy provides for the removal of whole plants; whereas conditions endorsed on Commercial Purposes Licence prohibit the taking of whole plants unless special permission is obtained. The policy provides that indigenous trees in the Kimberley Region are protected flora. All native tree species are declared protected flora. Condition of licence No. 5 in the policy document indicates that licences will be issued to principals and not to employee-collectors. This contravenes Section 23B(1) of the Wildlife Conservation Act which provides for the licencing of individual pickers only.

The Committee recommends the following amendments:

- Delete 1 under "Policy" heading and replace with:

1. That all indigenous plants in the Kimberley Region shall remain protected flora, and the taking of whole plants or parts of them, including seed, be subject to a royalty and a management fee for costs incurred in facilitating the taking of that flora. Approval to take whole plants will only be given where they are in an area where development is likely to destroy them.

- Delete 5 under "Conditions of Licence" heading and replace with:

5. Licences will only be issued to individual collectors who hold a current Commercial Purposes licence issued in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act and Regulations as well as the written permission of the land owner/occupier.

Recommendation 8

That Policy Directorate endorse proposed amendments to Policy Statement No. 13.

4.9 DECLARATION OF NON-VASCULAR PLANTS AS PROTECTED FLORA

On the 9th October 1987 the Hon Minister for Conservation and Land Management, approved a recommendation from the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority that non-vascular plants i.e. mosses and liverworts (Bryophytes), algae, fungi and lichens (Thallophytes) be declared as protected flora under the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act. Approximately 200 species of bryophytes, 194 species of lichens and 300 species of macro-fungi are now classed as protected flora. While most Bryophyte and Thallophyte species are thought to be widespread their conservation status is yet to be documented in detail. However, some species are poorly collected and may be rare.

Implications pertaining to this declaration include the licensing of contractors, or individuals, removing moss covered granite rock from vacant Crown land and the farming of salt lake algae for carotenes.

The question of royalties has not been considered at this stage, but will be addressed in the event that licences are issued.

Apart from moss rocks and salt lake algae, it is unlikely that members of the Wildflower industry will ever harvest native Bryophytes or Thallophytes. It should be noted that they are required to hold a Commercial Purpose Licence should they wish to do so.

Little data are available on these activities and there is an urgent need for research to be undertaken.

Recommendation 9

WIRC recommends that the proposed research team undertake this task as part of their program.

4.10 FLORA MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) - NEED FOR REVISION

Part of WIRC's original charter included the drafting of a management program for the commercial utilization of native flora, capable of sustaining a challenge through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Resources within CALM, however, are currently too small to allow this plan to be prepared.

Additionally proposed amendments to the Wildlife Conservation Act will address many of the anomalies presented in this paper. These need to be incorporated into the FMP, once approved.

Given the lack of available resources at present, WIRC recommends that the proposed research team draft the revised FMP.

Recommendation 10

That Policy Directorate endorse the need for a revised FMP and WIRC's recommendation that this draft be prepared by the proposed research team.

4.11 PROPOSED RESEARCH TEAM

As discussed the establishment of a permanent research team is essential if the Department is to manage the industry on a firm biological and sustainable yield basis. Revenue raised by the proposed fee increase and imposition of a royalty based system levied against the wholesaler/dealer, will be used to fund this team which will have the following functions: Refer to table 2 for costs.

- (a) Ensure that commercial harvesting is not endangering the long term survival of WA's flora.
- (b) Provide a detailed management program to allow the export of native flora, as required by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and to satisfy the demand of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species.
- (c) Establish a data base of species (including distribution, biology and ecology) exploited by the wildflower industry.
- (d) Address any other management issues identified including enforcement, licencing and implementation of the royalty system.

. Manpower Requirements

Minimum manpower requirements are :

- one Research Scientist
- one Technical Officer
- three flora industry wildlife officers
- three administrative support staff.

. Equipment Needs

Vehicles, research, computer and office equipment needs will also need to be funded from increased revenue.

Recommendation 11

That Policy Directorate endorse the establishment of a permanent research team including equipment needs.

THE OCTOBER 1987 MANAGERS MEETING - OUTCOMES AND FOLLOW-UP

Managers raised a great many issues of concern to them and to the Department at their October meeting. I have winnowed these down to seven, based on the principle that

- . it is efficient to concentrate on a few issues and handle them properly;
- . it is constructive to work on issues with a high degree of "solvability".

I intend that the seven issues selected be tackled quickly and vigorously; I will then consider whether to extend the programme.

Issues are therefore listed below as "Primary Issues", the approach to which is further elaborated upon below, and "Other Issues", which I have simply listed at this stage. This is not to say the latter cannot be attacked by any specialist or regional staff off their own bat, but the primary issues will have priority and a structured approach to them will be followed.

THE SEVEN PRIMARY ISSUES

1. Financial management, specifically the maximisation of Departmental revenue and the development of incentives/rewards for good financial management within the Department.
2. User-Pay Systems, specifically the development of means to return maximum dollars to CALM from users of CALM lands or facilities provided by CALM.
3. Officer Presence on Weekends in Forest Regions, specifically to provide visibility, but also supervision and extension/information service to visitors from the public.
4. The Wildflower Industry, specifically to develop an improved system for management of the industry and to secure better returns.
5. Land Estate, specifically to develop criteria to be used in assessing and ranking priorities for acquiring exchanging or disposing of the CALM land estate.

6. Necessary Operations, specifically the development of a correct and consistent approach to putting up, approving and implementing necessary operations in regions and districts.
7. The CALM Constituency, specifically the development of effective strategies to be applied at different levels in the Department and aimed at elevating our political and community support.

THE STRUCTURED APPROACH

I nominate one person to select and lead a team to examine the issue and to develop the strategies to deal with it.

Nominees are

- Issue 1 : Alan Hill
- 2 : John Sclater
- 3 : George Peet
- 4 : Steve Hopper
- 5 : David Hampton
- 6 : Frank Batini
- 7 : Kevin Goss

For each issue it will be necessary for the team to

1. Write a clear statement of the problem or the challenge. This must be cleared with me before any other work commences.
2. Determine whether there is an existing policy and where there isn't, prepare a draft policy for the Directorate.
3. Where necessary, prepare a series of strategies which are tailored to key work groups in the Department responsible for carrying out the new scheme.
4. Draw up a training and implementation programme.
5. Proposals are to be "bounced-off" branch and regional managers in draft form, and then submitted by the team leader to the Policy Directorate, in liaison with me.

The time frame is six months.

Each nominated team leader is to contact me over the next week to discuss their team membership and project priority.

If any branch or regional officer wishes to join a particular team, he should contact the nominated leader.

R J Underwood
GENERAL MANAGER

RJU:KC
Att
4 November 1987

Distribution:

Divisional Managers
Policy Directors
Branch Managers
Regional Managers

HON MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Attached, for your consideration, is a submission recommending licence fee increases in respect of commercial harvesting of wildflowers. The proposals were formulated by the Department's Wildflower Industry Review Committee in response to your request that a review of licence fees be undertaken early this year. Increases have been endorsed and supported by representatives of the wildflower industry who sought significant increases in licence fees as a means of promoting greater "professionalism" by pickers and the deterring of amateur operators. The attached letter from Total Exports is indicative of the motives for the suggested fee increase.

The Wildflower Industry Review Committee is also examining the introduction of a royalty system to be levied on the dealer/wholesaler. However this proposal has not been fully canvassed with industry and could not be introduced until after the completion of a detailed study.

As indicated in the submission, a two-tiered approach in implementing these changes is recommended. Licence fees could be raised immediately with royalties imposed after the completion of a detailed study.

Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

11 March 1988

| | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| COMMERCIAL PURPOSES LICENCE |) | PROPOSAL TO |
| COMMERCIAL PRODUCERS LICENCE |) | INCREASE |
| SCIENTIFIC OR OTHER PRESCRIBED PURPOSES LICENCE |) | LICENCE FEES |

For some years it has been apparent that full-time research staff are required to establish the Department's management of the wildflower industry on a firm scientific basis. The arguments for this are developed with relevant background material in Report 53 by M.A. Burgman and S.D. Hopper.

Although new staff have been requested as growth items in successive budget estimates over the past five years, the positions have not been made available. Some success in attracting grants from the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service has occurred, and a sum from the Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund was made available in 1980/81 to enable M.A. Burgman's investigation to take place.

These short-term projects have provided valuable insights into the wildflower industry. However, they uniformly highlight the need for ongoing research and monitoring of harvesting in the wild if stocks are to be managed on a sustainable yield basis.

At present, pickers in the wildflower industry contribute little to State revenue to engage in their occupation. A \$5.00 licence fee is paid annually, and no royalties are charged. This is in contrast to other industries exploiting public resources such as timber, ash, honey or minerals. The decision not to impose royalties and to keep licence fees low for wildflower pickers was made in 1980 because, at the time, little was known about the industry and there was a desire not to cause major disruption by imposing hefty charges on an infant industry before it could become properly established.

These reasons are no longer valid. Commercial flower, foliage and seed harvesting is a multi-million dollar export industry, and in excess of 1,100 pickers seek licences annually. The pickers' average yearly earnings were estimated to be \$6,500.00 in 1980/81. *Current earnings would be significantly higher.*

In addition to a better understanding of how the industry operates, the Department is receiving an increasing number of inquiries from the industry, public and national and international organisations about management of picking in the wild. The possible spread of dieback by pickers on the south coast is an example of an issue that needs to be resolved. The impact of the industry on heavily harvested plants with narrow geographical ranges e.g. Dryandra polycephala, Banksia coccinea, is another.

These issues require ongoing research for satisfactory resolution.

Licence fees are paid into the Nature Conservation and National Parks Trust Account and can be used for the purpose of research relating to flora and fauna conservation. Increased revenue arising from an increase in licence fees and the imposition of a royalty system could be used to fund a permanent research ~~team~~ ^{program}. This would provide the Department with the necessary resources to better manage the industry, ~~to ensure~~ ^{support from} a viable, renewable resource and to provide for the conservation of endangered or geographically restricted flora by the introduction of ~~specific~~ ^{flora} species management plans. The Wildflower Industry Review Committee recommends that the annual fee for the Commercial Purposes Licence be raised from \$5.00 to \$100.00. This figure is considered realistic in view of the earnings of pickers and is one that would receive support from the industry and conservation groups. The increased ~~in~~ licence fees may also serve to stimulate interest in the establishment of private wildflower farms, which would ultimately reduce ^a demand for bush-picked flora.

~~the~~ ^{the} Committee

It ~~is~~ ^s also recommended that licence fees for Commercial Producers, i.e. flora ~~being~~ harvested from private land, and Scientific or Other Prescribed Purposes be raised, nominally, from \$5.00 and \$2.00 respectively to \$25.00 and \$10.00 respectively. Fees for these licences have not been increased since April 1980.

The institution of a royalty system will require further investigation ~~as~~ ^{as to} its administration and policing and could not be implemented immediately. A two-tiered approach in implementing these changes is therefore recommended, with fees being raised immediately and royalties imposed after the completion of a detailed study.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The annual fee for Commercial Purposes Licence be raised to \$100.00 immediately, and royalties be charged on flora harvested from Crown land after the completion of a detailed study by the Wildflower Industry Review Committee.
2. The annual fee for Commercial Producers Licence and Scientific or Other Prescribed Purposes Licence be increased to \$25.00 and \$10.00 respectively.
3. Revenue raised from licence fees and royalties be used to establish a permanent research ~~team~~ ^{program} to undertake research ~~on~~ ^{into} the management of the wildflower industry.



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT
DEALERS RETURN

Flora Purchased from Licenced Wildflower Pickers during the Month of: _____ Year 19 ____

Company Name: _____

1. Compilers Certification: I hereby certify that I have completed this return and that it is true and correct.

Licencee's Name: _____

Signed _____ Date: _____

Licence Number: _____

2. Licensee's Certification: I have checked this return and certify that all entries therein are true and correct.

Compilers Name: _____

Signed _____ Date: _____

| Date Received | Licensed Pickers | | Land | | Location Code Number | Species Code Number | Quantity | Unit | Parts |
|---------------|------------------|------------|-------|---------|----------------------|---------------------|----------|------|-------|
| | Name | Licence No | Crown | Private | | | | | |

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Licence Test: Commercial Purposes Licence

1. A COMMERCIAL PURPOSES LICENCE ALLOWS PROTECTED FLORA TO BE TAKEN FROM
 - (A) National Parks and Nature Reserves
 - (b) Road reserves
 - (c) Vacant Crown land
 - (d) Shire reserves
 - (e) Only private property
2. PROTECTED FLORA MAY BE TAKEN FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY
 - (a) anytime when the owner or occupier is not present;
 - (b) with written approval from the owner or occupier of that land;
 - (c) only during the flowering season;
 - (d) never
 - (e) if approval is obtained from the Department of Conservation and Land Management.
3. "RARE FLORA" AS DECLARED BY THE MINISTER IS FLORA THAT IS
 - (a) in danger of extinction;
 - (b) is rare;
 - (c) in need of special protection;
 - (d) all of the above.
4. A LICENCE HOLDER MAY NOT TAKE
 - (a) black kangaroo paws and Albany Pitcher plants;
 - (b) Sandalwood
 - (c) rare flora as declared by the Minister;
 - (d) native orchids
 - (e) any of the above.
5. WHEN TAKING FLORA A PICKER MAY TAKE
 - (a) as much as he wants leaving stumps only if necessary;
 - (b) all the flowering stems and all the seeds, that is to strip the plant;
 - (c) a portion of each plant leaving an adequate supply of flowers and seeds;
 - (d) any of the above.
6. WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO KNOW THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE LAND ON WHICH FLORA IS TO BE TAKEN?
 - (a) Department of Conservation and Land Management;;
 - (b) Department of Land Administration;
 - (c) The picker;
 - (d) The status of the land is not important;
 - (e) The local Shire.

7. AN ENDORSEMENT TO PICK BORONIA IS
 - (a) never issued;
 - (b) issued by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, District Office
 - (c) issued by the Department of Fisheries
 - (d) issued by the local Shire Office.

8. AS PART OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE WILDFLOWER TRADE AND CONSERVATION OF OUR FLORA RETURNS ARE TO BE COMPLETED. THESE RETURNS SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY THE PICKER
 - (a) monthly;
 - (b) as desired;
 - (c) at the end of flowering season;
 - (d) only for the months when picking occurs.

9. "RARE FLOA" AS DECLARED BY THE MINISTER MAY BE TAKEN IF
 - (a) the rare flora occurs on private property and the owner or occupier of that land is the picker;
 - (b) the person holds a current Commercial Purposes Licence;
 - (c) the Minister has given his specific written consent;
 - (d) the person has been authorised by the owner or occupier of land on which the rare flora exists.

10. THE FLORA OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA IS CONSIDERED TO BE A NATURAL ASSET OF WORLD WIDE IMPORTANCE. HOWEVER, THE LONG-TERM SURVIVAL OF SOME SPECIES IS NOT GUARANTEED. ACTIONS WHICH PLACE PLANTS UNDER THREAT OF EXTINCTION ARE
 - (a) uncontrolled picking, particularly of geographically restricted species;
 - (b) uncontrolled heavy commercial exploitation;
 - (c) carelessness in bushland areas, such as dropped fruit peelings, cigarette butts, litter etc and fire, all of which alter the environment;
 - (d) all of the above.

11. THE CLASSES OF FLORA PRESENTLY DECLARED AS PROTECTED ARE
 - (a) the lower forms of plant life such as mosses, algae etc;
 - (b) angiosperms (seed bearing plants);
 - (c) all plants that are angiosperms (seed bearing plants) or gynosperms (cone bearing plants) or pteridophytes (ferns and fern allies);
 - (d) every plant is protected
 - (e) only those species which are declared rare.

12. STATE FORESTS, TIMBER RESERVES, SHIRE RESERVES AND WATER CATCHMENT RESERVES ARE EXAMPLES OF CROWN LAND RESERVES. A LICENCE HOLDER MAY TAKE FLORA FROM THESE CROWN LAND RESERVES
- (a) with the written permission of the authority in whose control the land is vested;
 - (b) freely as with vacant Crown land;
 - (c) with special permission from the Department of Conservation and Land Management.
 - (d) with written approval from the Minister for Land Administration.
13. TO PICK IN A STATE FOREST OR TIMBER RESERVE WRITTEN APPROVAL IS REQUIRED. HAVING GAINED THIS APPROVAL WHAT MUST THE LICENSE HOLDER DO BEFORE ENTERING?
- (a) be prepared to encounter snakes;
 - (b) make contact with the District Conservation and Land Management Office, nearest to where picking is intended to be carried out, to determine the specific area where protected flora may be taken;
 - (c) let someone know exactly where you intend to pick and for how long so a search can be mounted if you fail to return;
 - (d) advise the Department of Conservation and Land Management State Operational Headquarters.
14. THIS LICENCE DOES NOT
- (a) authorise the taking of "declared rare flora";
 - (b) allow the sale or exchange of the picked flora;
 - (c) authorise the taking of protected flora from vacant Crown land;
 - (d) authorise any of the above.
15. TO PICK, FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, FLORA FROM VACANT CROWN LAND WHAT SORT OF LICENCE IS REQUIRED?
- (a) Forest Produce Licence;
 - (b) Prescribed Purposes Licence;
 - (c) Commercial Producer's Licence;
 - (d) Commercial Purposes Licence;
 - (e) Scientific Licence.
16. AN OWNER OR OCCUPIER OF PRIVATE LAND WHO DESIRES TO SELL FLORA HE PICKED ON HIS OWN PROPERTY SHOULD APPLY FOR A
- (a) Forest Produce Licence;
 - (b) Prescribed Purposes Licence;
 - (c) Commercial Producer's Licence;
 - (d) Commercial Purposes Licence
 - (e) Scientific Licence.

17. A FLORA LICENCE IS

- (a) to be carried by the picker at all times;
- (b) a confidential document to be kept in a safe place;
- (c) transferrable and may be lent to a friend;
- (d) to be carried by the picker at all times and produced on demand.

18. THE COMMERCIAL PURPOSES LICENCE IS ISSUED FOR

- (a) 12 months and the Department of Conservation and Land Management will arrange its renewal;
- (b) 12 months or less and the picker is responsible for its renewal each year;
- (c) the flowering season only;
- (d) an indefinite period.

19. "RARE FLORA" AS DECLARED BY THE MINISTER MAY BE TAKEN

- (a) by the holder of a Commercial Purposes Licence;
- (b) by the holder of a Commercial Producer's Licence;
- (c) an occupier or owner of private land if the rare flora occurs on his property;
- (d) with the specific written approval of the Minister
- (e) only if the picker holds a current Scientific Licence.

20. THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT IS SEEKING THE PICKERS' ASSISTANCE IN THE CONSERVATION OF OUR FLORA. WHY IS THE DEPARTMENT WANTING TO CONSERVE THE FLORA?

- (a) Various organisations have requested the Government to preserve all flora;
- (b) the State's flora is considered to be a natural asset that is both unique and beautiful, and which is important to the State's economy and environment;
- (c) everything has a right to life;
- (d) all of the above.

COMMERCIAL PURPOSES LICENCE
CONDITIONS

1. This licence DOES NOT authorise the taking of those species declared as rare flora pursuant to Section 23F of the Wildlife Conservation Act.
2. This licence does not authorise the taking of *Boronia megastigma*, *Boronia heterophylla*, *Cephalotus follicularis* (Albany Pitcher Plant) *Santalum spicatum* (Sandalwood), *Macropidia fuliginosa* (Black Kangaroo Paw), *Reedia spathacea*, *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* (Mottlecak), species of the family *Orchidaceae* (Native Orchids), and any other species which may be restricted from time to time as advised in writing by the Executive Director, Department of Conservation and Land Management.
3. The licensee shall not take whole plants, or roots of plants, unless authorised to do so in writing by the Executive Director, Department of Conservation and Land Management.
4. The licensee should not take vehicles into areas containing dieback.
5. The licensee shall not take any protected flora from any Crown land reserved for the objects and purposes of a National Park or for the conservation of flora or fauna or both flora and fauna.
6. The licensee must ascertain the current status of any land on which flora is to be taken and then satisfy the requirements of conditions 7, 8 and 9 below.
7. No protected flora shall be taken from any road or rail reserve except subject to condition 9.
8. Before entering any State Forest or Timber Reserve to carry out approved picking, contact must be made with the District Office, Department of Conservation and Land Management, nearest to where picking is intended to be carried out, for the purpose of determining the specific area where protected flora may be taken, time that may be spent in any area of State Forest or Timber Reserve and for advice on the areas which may be closed due to dieback.
9. The licensee shall not take protected flora from any Crown Land Reserves, (e.g. Nature Reserves, National Parks, Shire Reserves, Water Catchment Reserves, Road Reserves, Rail Reserves, State Forest and Timber Reserves and other such similar reserves) without carrying the written permission of the authority in whose control the land is vested pursuant to the Land Act or any other Act. Such written permission shall state the period for which consent is valid, the particular area concerned, the genus and species and quantity of flora to be taken.
10. The licensee shall use existing tracks only and shall not extend or cut new tracks by any means.
11. No specimens shall be taken in such a manner so as to destroy or jeopardise the survival of the plant.
12. The licensee shall not harvest protected flora in a manner which renders the flora unsaleable.
13. The licensee shall not harvest protected flora which has no commercial value.
14. Tea Tree or Tee Tree or Ti Tree - all being species of the genera *Agonis*, *Kunzea*, *Melaleuca* and *Leptospermum*, shall not be taken for use as bean sticks or fencing or for use in market gardens or to make rock lobster pots or similar unless a current Forest Produce Licence issued by the Department of Conservation and Land Management is held.

- Blackboy (all species of Xanthorrhoea or Kingia) stumps shall not be taken unless a current Forest Produce Licence issued by the Department of Conservation and Land Management is held.
16. This licence must be carried by the licensee at all times for the purpose of displaying their authority to collect when questioned as to their right to collect by a Wildlife Officer, any other State, local, or Commonwealth Government officer or any member of the public.
17. The licensee shall not take protected flora from land which is the subject of a lease or licence from the Crown for pastoral or timber purposes without carrying the written permission of the lessee or occupier of that land.
18. The licensee shall on the prescribed form, on or before the 15th day of the month furnish to the Executive Director, Department of Conservation and Land Management, a return of all protected flora taken for sale during the preceding calendar month.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

It would be preferable for the licensee to become acquainted with the Wildlife Conservation Act and Regulations with particular reference to Flora Conservation.

The licensee shall take note that:

- (a) All care must be taken to avoid the spread of dieback. Contact Department of Conservation and Land Management District Offices to obtain further information.
- (b) In Plant groups where plants are difficult to distinguish from other widespread species of commercial importance, voucher specimens sufficient for identification shall be furnished to the Executive Director, Department of Conservation and Land Management, upon request.
- (c) Classes of flora protected throughout the State includes all Spermatophyta (flowering plants, conifers and cycads), Pteridophyta (ferns and fern allies), Bryophyta (mosses and liverworts) and Thallophyta (algae, fungi and lichens).
- (d) It is the policy of the Main Roads Department and WESTRAIL not to permit the taking of flora for commercial purposes from any part of a highway or main road or railway reserve, or from other reserves and private land owned or under their control.
- (e) It is the policy of the State Planning Commission (formerly Metropolitan Region Planning Authority) not to permit the taking of flora for commercial purposes from any property under its control.
- (f) It is the responsibility of the licensee to request licence renewal if and when required.

DRAFT MEMO TO
DIRECTOR, FORESTS

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 13 - TAKING OF PROTECTED FLORA IN THE
KIMBERLEY REGION - AUGUST 1986

The Wildflower Industry Review Committee, an intra departmental committee set up at the request of the General Manager, has completed a review of the above statement.

There appears to be a number of anomalies in the policy statement which conflict with departmental administration of other species of protected flora.

Accordingly it is recommended that consideration be given to revising the policy document as follows :

- a) There is a condition on Commercial Purposes Licences which prohibit the taking of whole plants for sale unless special permission is obtained. Such approval to take is usually only granted in situations where the flora is to be destroyed for other purposes e.g. road works, development projects etc.

It is considered appropriate that approval only be granted for the removal of whole plants from areas where proposed development will destroy the plants.

Also all indigenous trees in the Kimberley Region have been declared protected flora by statutory Notice since April 18th 1980.

Policy 1 could be amended to read:

1. That all indigenous plants in the Kimberley Region are protected flora, and the taking of whole plants or parts of them, including seed, be subject to a royalty and a management fee for costs incurred in facilitating the taking of that flora. Approval to take whole plants will only be given where trees are in an area where development is likely to destroy the plants.

Conditions of licence would need to be amended accordingly.

- b) Species of protected flora declared rare cannot be taken without the written consent of the Minister. Item 2 in the policy statement states the obvious and should be deleted to avoid possible confusion.
- c) Condition of Licence No. 5 in the policy document ("Licences will be issued only to principals and not to employee-collectors and contractors") is in contravention of Section 23B(1) of the Wildlife Conservation Act which states:

"A person shall not on Crown land wilfully take any protected flora unless the taking of the protected flora is authorised by, and carried out in accordance with the terms and conditions of, a licence issued to him under section twenty three C of this Act."

Pastoral leases are defined as Crown land under the Act. The Department cannot legally require a principal of a nursery, seed company etc. to hold a Commercial Purposes Licence unless he actually takes the protected flora himself.

Each employee-collector and/or contractor involved in the taking must hold a licence, as well as the written permission of the occupier.

This condition should be amended to read:

- 5. Licences will only be issued to individual collectors who hold a current Commercial Purposes licence issued in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act and Regulations as well as the written permission of the occupier.

CHAIRMAN

WILDFLOWER INDUSTRY REVIEW COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 13

TAKING OF PROTECTED FLORA IN THE KIMBERLEY REGION

AUGUST 1986

INTRODUCTION

There have been reports of the illegal taking of certain plants in the Kimberley Region including mature trees like Boab Adansonia gregorii and Fan Palm Livistona eastoni and other species of Livistona. In order to achieve control over this type of activity the Department will manage these species as "Protected Flora" under the Wildlife Conservation Act. For the time being, this policy will apply to Boab and the several species of Livistona palms, but may later be extended to other Kimberley species. (a)

POLICY

1. That indigenous trees in the Kimberley Region are protected flora, and the taking of whole plants or parts of them, including seed, be subject to a royalty and a management fee for costs incurred in facilitating the taking of that flora.
2. That any Kimberley species placed on the list of gazetted rare plants be excluded from picking or taking. (b)
3. That a public education programme be instituted to advise the public of our intention to control the taking of any endemic plants in the Kimberley Region.
4. That royalties be established to encourage the taking to be from areas remote from dwellings or public roads and only from pastoral properties.
5. That trees not be taken from Nature Reserves, National Parks or other reserves for conservation. (c)
6. This policy will be reviewed if there is an increase in demand for Boab trees or any Kimberley flora.

STRATEGY

1. BOABS

Royalty will be based on maximum girth below crown break, to overcome the problem of boab's variable shape.

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Whole trees maximum girth | 0 to 99cm | \$ 50.00 per tree |
| " " " " | 100 to 199cm | 100.00 per tree |
| " " " " | 200 to 400cm | 400.00 per tree |

Trees greater than 400cm girth will not be available.
Boab nuts (fruit) _____ \$10/100 nuts.

2. PALMS

Livistona eastoni from established groves, other species (*L. humilis*, *L. inermis*, etc) only to be taken where threatened by mining, roading etc.

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Whole trees | 0 - 2.00 metres height |\$30 |
| | 0 - 5.99 metres |\$50 |
| | 6 metres plus |\$70 |
| | Seeds |\$5/100 |

DISCOUNTS

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 0 to 49km from any townsite | No discount |
| 50 to 99km from any townsite | 10% discount |
| 100 to 199km from any townsite | 30% discount |
| 200km + from any townsite | 50% discount |

CONDITIONS OF LICENCE

1. No tree will be selected within 2km of any dwelling, stockyard, bore, boundary fence or other improvements, or within 500 metres of public or main station access road, or 200 metres from any internal road or internal fence.
2. No tree will be selected when in the opinion of a CALM officer its removal is likely to cause erosion.
3. No tree will be selected where it is an obvious and frequent camping place for stock.
4. Spacing of trees to be selected will be determined in the field but it is intended that only occasional trees will be marked.

5. Licences will be issued only to principals and not to employee-collectors and contractors.
6. Licence will only be issued on production of a written authority from a station lessee for entry to a specific area of his lease.
7. Licences will, for the present, only be issued to:
 - 7.1 Local Government
 - 7.2 Community projects
 - 7.3 Specified private sector business
 - wildlife parks and botanic gardens
 - nurserymen
 - artefact producers
 - seed supplies
 - 7.4 Main Roads Department.

Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Distribution Lists: A, B, C, D, E, F

TABLE 1: FLORA LICENCES AND REVENUE

| Type of Licence | Number of Licences Issued | | | | | | | Current | Proposed | Revenue | Expected (proposed fee times no. of licences in '87) |
|--|---------------------------|------|-----|-----|------|----------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---|
| | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | Fee \$ | Fee \$ | '87 | |
| Commercial Purposes | 454 | 551 | 441 | 634 | 716 | 687 | 1171 | 5 | 100 | 5,855 | 117,100 |
| Scientific or Prescribed Purposes | 301 | 687 | 458 | 547 | 596 | W365) 702 337) | W210 427 | 2 | 10 | 854 | 4,270 |
| Commercial Producers or Nurseryman's Licence | 199 | 118 | 89 | 95 | 85 | 87 | 99 | 5 | 25 | 495 | 2,475 |
| TOTAL | 954 | 1356 | 988 | 729 | 1397 | 1476 | 1907 | | | 7,204 | 123,845 |

TABLE 2: COSTS OF ESTABLISHING PERMANENT
RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT TEAMS

1. PERMANENT RESEARCH TEAM

| <u>MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS</u> | \$ |
|--|----------------|
| 1 Research Scientist (Level 2-4) 1st year | 23,000 |
| 1 Technical Officer (Level 2) + 15% overtime | <u>25,000</u> |
| Total | <u>48,000</u> |
| <u>VEHICLE NEEDS</u> | |
| 1 Long Wheel Base (4 wheel drive) To be used by Research Scientist and Technical Officer | 25,000 |
| Running costs (Plant hire, Petrol, Service, etc) | <u>8,000</u> |
| Total | <u>33,000</u> |
| <u>EQUIPMENT NEEDS</u> | |
| These include initial set up of Office Computer & Research needs | <u>15,000</u> |
| <u>TRAVELLING</u> | |
| 1 Research Scientist & 1 Technical Officer | <u>6,000</u> |
| Overall Total | <u>102,000</u> |

2. PROTECTION

| <u>MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS</u> | \$ |
|---|---------------|
| 3 Wildlife Officers (Level 3) | <u>81,000</u> |
| <u>VEHICLE NEEDS</u> | |
| 2 Long Wheel Base (4 wheel drives) To be used by 3 Wildlife officers | 75,000 |
| Running costs (Plant hire, Petrol, Service etc) | <u>24,000</u> |
| Total | <u>99,000</u> |

| <u>EQUIPMENT NEEDS</u> | \$ |
|---|----------------|
| These include initial set up of office and Miscellaneous equipment needs | <u>10,000</u> |
| <u>TRAVELLING</u> | |
| 3 Wildlife Officers | <u>16,000</u> |
| Overall Total | <u>205,000</u> |

3. ADMINISTRATION

| <u>MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS</u> | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Administrative Officer (Level 3) | 27,000 |
| 2 Administrative Assistants (Level 2) | <u>46,000</u> |
| Total | <u>73,000</u> |

| <u>EQUIPMENT NEEDS</u> | |
|---|---------------|
| These include initial set up of office and miscellaneous equipment needs | <u>10,000</u> |
| Overall Total | <u>83,000</u> |

Total cost of setting up Permanent Research and Management Teams would be approximately \$390,000 in the first year.

Once set up, annual running costs would drop to approximately \$265,000.