FR. Submission No. 67

AUSTRALIAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE

ON TRADE AND COMMERCE

INQUIRY INTO ALL ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIA'S

FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES

Submission by:

FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

April 1979

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AUSTRALIAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE

ON TRADE AND COMMERCE

INQUIRY INTO ALL ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIA'S FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES

IDENTIFICATION

Forest Products Association (W.A.) is an organisation comprising member companies prominent in the timber and wood based products industries in Western Australia. A number of these companies are involved in a range of activities including felling and logging in south-west forest areas, sawmilling and conversion of logs, further processing of a wide range of timber and wood based products, and the marketing and sale of these products in diverse markets.

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INTRODUCTION:

The Timber Industry, based on the sawing of hardwoods, began in the earliest days of settlement, developed rapidly in the 1890s and reached peak production about 1913.

Historically, its effect on development was manifold. Railway systems were built to serve the timber industry, harbours were built at Bunbury and Busselton, the development of agriculture was aided by the employment given to farmers, there was considerable township development, and the hardwood timber industry provided access for other land users.

Member Companies of Forest Products Association (W.A.) were there at the beginning and their names have become synonymous not only with the industry, but with the whole of the region.

The wood production industry has had considerable social and economic significance to communities throughout the South-West since settlement began in Western Australia.

Timber is the mainstay of the lower south-west of the State, whole towns being dependent upon its activities.

Quite apart from those directly engaged in the Industry, retail traders, transport drivers, and those engaged in a wide range of services in the timber towns, depend vitally upon a prosperous industry.

An important feature of the timber industry is that it is one of the few industries which has been responsible for a large degree of desirable decentralised development. Towns with all amenities such as schools, hospitals, water supplies, and the general community needs, have grown up around sawmilling.

The timber industry provides considerable revenue to the W.A. Forests Department (in excess of $5 million in 1977/78), to the W.A. Government Railways (approximately $3 million in 1977/78), and to other Government instrumentalities.

For the interest of the Committee, attached is a copy of the 1978 Annual Report of the Association, which outlines the spread of activity of the W.A. Timber Industry.

A major change developing in the annual timber resource availability from Hardwood and Softwood will have a great bearing on the structure of the wood based industries, and on the South-West community in coming years.

It is understood that the W.A. Forests Department has made available to the Committee a copy of General Working Plan 86 of 1977.

The object of the General Working Plan is to ensure in the short term that present levels of supply are maintained and that, by early next century, the estimated local demand for sawn timber can be met from local supplies. At the same time, the cut from indigenous forest will be regulated according to the long term productive capacities of the respective species, having due regard for regional stability of the timber industry and employment.

Referring again to sawlog production policy, the Working Plan provides for the gradual reduction in the level of hardwood sawlog cut to between 150 000 cubic metres and 200 000 cubic metres over the next 50 years, with an increase in the level of pine sawlog production of approximately 900 000 cubic metres by the year 2010.

The Working Plan strongly emphasises the need for Western Australia to be self-sufficient in timber.

The phased reduction of hardwood intake will involve :-

(a) amalgamation of sawmills into a reduced number of units of economic size;

(b) variations of permits and licences to provide the management flexibility necessary for multiple use forestry;

(c) re-location of mills and processing facilities in more socially favoured localities;

(d) transferring part of the workforce to re-manufacturing activities and into the developing pine processing industry which will be established in the South-West, but not necessarily at those centres currently occupied by the hardwood industry.

During the next 5 years this reduction will involve the closure of about 18 sawmills.

The closure of timber mills due to lack of log resource is not a new experience to sawmilling companies, which have perfected the means of transferring labour and houses - sometimes complete communities - to new sites. However, the forthcoming down-turn in hardwood production will throw additional stress upon the work-force and companies responsible.

FOREST POLICY:

In 1918, the major requirements of policy were to provide for a permanent forest estate, to control the sawmilling industry and to protect the forest from fire and other destructive agencies.

Demands on the State Forest which were created through the 1918 Act continue to expand. The growing population requires increasing volumes of wood and water to meet its needs.

The activities of bauxite mining and the Jarrah dieback disease have put additional demands on the Forests Department as well as the Industry.

Affluence and improved awareness within the public sector have also placed higher values and demands on the less tangible forest benefits such as aesthetics, recreation and biological preservation.

As a finite resource, the forests must continue to be managed so that benefits can be shared by all sections of the community, and therefore Government forest policy is now based on a multiple use concept.

FOREST AREA AND OWNERSHIP:

As at the 30th June, 1978, land under the control of the Forests Department in the South-West was classified as follows :-

Tenure	Area (hectares)
State Forest	1 853 876
Forest Act Timber Reserves	117 517
Freehold land held in the name of the Conservator of Forests	26 212
Land under control of the Forests Department	1 997 605 hectares

The area may be classified into the following broad forest types :-

Type	Area (hectares)
Jarrah	1 451 000
Karri	140 000
Wandoo	106 000
Mallet	10 000
Tuart	3 000
Pinus radiata	20 000
Pinus pinaster	23 000
Very open areas	215 000
	1 968 000 hectares

HARDWOOD SAWMILLING AND WOODCHIPPING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

Under proper management of native forests, sawmilling is a major silvicultural tool whereby appropriate felling of mature and over-mature trees can be carried out through selective and clear-felling processes to ensure regeneration and the maintenance of productive, healthy forests in perpetuity.

Western Australian sawmillers extract sawlogs almost entirely from State forests through a controlled system of permits and licences. The control of this system is exercised by the W.A. Forests Department and effected through the Department's forest management policies. As a result, there is a balance between -

(a) sustaining sawmilling as a large diversified rural industry employing thousands of people;

(b) maintaining and improving forest resources; and

(c) developing other essential uses of the forest such as recreation, water catchment, tourism, etc.

The latest available figures for the year 1977/78 show that 885 540 cubic metres of hardwood sawlogs produced 347 111 cubic metres of sawn timber, representing 39% effective sawn recovery.

The remaining 61% residue volume comprises hardwood which cannot be converted to sawn timber (saleable) due to various natural defects in the logs, kerf and bark. Although this residue figure appears high, current sawmilling practices related to market requirements cannot reduce it further and it was therefore necessary to dispose of the residue. Also, during felling operations in the forest, some trees were consequently found to be so extensively defective as to make it uneconomical to haul them to a sawmill for conversion. These trees were left lying in the forest.

The advent of the woodchipping industry has resolved much of the problem of better utilisation, management and regeneration of the forest resource, and W.A. sawmillers regard the woodchipping industry as a much needed adjunct to normal sawmill operations in the forest for conversion of forest and mill residue into a commercially acceptable product.

Of interest to the Committee will be the following cost figures for regeneration, as recently published by the W.A. Forests Department:-

Woodchipping vs. non chipping costs in Karri and Marri mixtures:

Typical KM Stand	With Chipping	Without Chipping
Sawlog Royalty 78 cu.m @ $5.70	$444.60	$444.60
Chipwood Royalty 150 cu.m @ 74¢	$111.00	-
Gross Return / Hectare	$555.60	$444.60
Option 1		
Cost of Regeneration with seed trees	$90.00	$140.00
Gross Return / Hectare	$465.60	$304.60
Option 2		
Cost of Regeneration by hand planting	$177.60	$227.60
Gross Return / Hectare	$378.00	$217.00
Option 3		
Cost of Regeneration by seeding	$102.60	$152.60
Gross Return / Hectare	$453.00	$292.00

The woodchipping industry is based on extensive utilisation of the Marri species, except that Marri logs graded as sawlogs will continue to be processed into sawn timber. Karri sawmill and forest residue is being chipped, and with the installation of chippers at the sawmills will increasingly supplement the volume of chips produced from Marri residue.

A total of 434 377 m^3 of Marri and Karri, unsuitable for sawmilling, were used in the production of woodchips in 1977/78. In addition 89 390 tonnes of chips prepared from mill residue were purchased from sawmills.

SOFTWOOD SAWMILLING:

In 1978 the Forests Department sold two of its Pine Sawmills to private interests.

The major hardwood sawmillers directly faced with mill closures and loss of resource volume presented to Government a case for their obtaining preferential access to the pine resource.

The sale specified construction of two new softwood mills with a capacity for an annual intake of 50 000 m^3 of pine logs by 1982 to 1985.

The outcome of consideration of responses to the tender was that a consortium of hardwood sawmillers were granted the part of the resource which would become available at the later time.

The earlier resource was granted to a consortium with major pine interest in particle board and case manufacture.

A third mill at Pemberton was leased.

The outcome of the sale of the pine resource is outlined to foreshadow problems which can be expected in maintaining a stable timber industry in W.A.

At present the increased imports of Eastern States pine at competitive costs with the local pine are a forerunner of unsettling influences. Because of the age groups and lower production costs of plantations in S.E. Australia together with established, partly depreciated production plant, the ability for local production to compete will remain very difficult in W.A. for many years.

For self-sufficiency to be attained in forest products in W.A. from softwood plantations a continuing and increasing export market will need to be established for certain classes of production, in particular the younger age groups and lower quality stands and species. At present we are fortunate in having an export orientated particle board plant utilising 400 tonnes a day of pine thinnings. This is essential for plantation management so as to produce economically the log that will yield future structural grade timber.

The W.A. forest industry has therefore already demonstrated its ability in this area and Forest Products Association (W.A.) supports the concept of net self-sufficiency for W.A. in forest products i.e. local production plus imports equals local consumption plus exports.

INDUSTRY WORK FORCE:

There is at present a total of 5,400 workers engaged directly in the timber industry in Western Australia, comprising 2,500 in sawmills, 750 in ancillary occupations, 1,000 in metropolitan yards, 500 in sales and administration, and 650 in suburban and country branches.

Indirectly, many thousands of others depend upon the sawmill industry, servicing it and its employees, the timber towns and their populations.

INDUSTRIAL:

A matter of great significance is that employers and employees within the timber industry in Western Australia have an outstanding record in industrial relations. The history of harmony within this industry can be considered impeccable, particularly as the industry engages such a wide range of trades and skills.

The Forest Products Association has achieved a healthy relationship with the timber industry unions.

FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT:

The W.A. Timber Industry, in a spirit of consultation and co-operation, has subscribed to and accepted the principles of environmental management and multiple use over a number of years.

These actions have included :-

(a) Acceptance of and compliance with the responsibility for fire protection and other environmental controls in relation to flora and fauna and the protection of regrowth under the terms of permits and licences governing logging operations.

(b) Adoption of modified logging practices to meet the requirements of dieback hygiene, and acceptance of additional costs associated with these.

(c) Acknowledgement of the need for periodic royalty increases at least to sustain existing levels of forest protection.

(d) Land management for catchment protection in the northern forests where industry operations have proved to be compatible with the requirements of fresh water supplies over a very long period.

An Environmental Protection Authority had been set up in W.A. by the State Government to monitor environmental impacts and to examine and approve proposals affecting the environment. None the less, the Forest Products Association has considered the subject of sufficient importance to set up its own independent consultant panel entitled "The Forest Industries Environmental Advisory Committee".

The Committee is at present constituted as follows:-

Dr. J.S. Beard, D.Phil. (Convenor)
Professor J.F. Loneragan, Ph.D.
Professor M. Hugo-Brunt, B.Arch., M.C.D., M. Arch.

Dr. Beard had previous experience in the British Colonial Forest Service, then as a silviculturist in the South African Wattle Industry; as Director of King's Park and Botanic Gardens, Perth; and as Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Dr. Loneragan is Professor of Biological Sciences at Murdoch University, and Mr. Hugo-Brunt is Professor of Architecture at the University of W.A.

NORTHERN JARRAH FOREST:

Bauxite Mining

The Industry is not opposed to bauxite mining, and indeed believes that well-planned, controlled economic growth can be accommodated within the multiple use management objectives of forest policy set out in the Forest Department's "General Working Plan" accepted by the Government and supported by the sawmilling industry.

In particular, the Conservator's autonomous role as Manager of State Forests and other forest lands under his control is strongly supported.

However, unlike the mining industry, the timber industry depends for its future upon a renewable resource in the very long term, although it is very much aware of natural obstacles such as forest diseases that can have great influence on planning. The industry expects bauxite mining to replace the renewable resource to the standard that current knowledge allows supported by continuing research.

Disease

A major disease in the Northern Jarrah Forest is Dieback.

In 1965 the fungus Phytophthora cinnamomi was identified as the causative agent of Jarrah dieback disease. The realisation that the disease was contagious has completely changed the assessment of its implications for the industry and the nature of research and management procedures necessary for its control.

Without control the disease will eventually destroy much of the Jarrah forest. Control measures will take time to develop. The timber industry has therefore voluntarily agreed to restrict its activities to minimise the spread of the disease while research workers investigate control measures and alternative forestry systems.

Many of the restrictions adopted have been expensive to the industry, but the industry has recognised that they are essential if a permanent timber industry is to be retained in the region of the Jarrah forest, and if other serious environmental problems are to be avoided.

Given sufficient time and effort, alternative forestry practices will be devised to preserve forests in the Jarrah forest region, and to maintain a timber industry within them.

UTILISATION AND MARKETING:

Many difficult problems are facing the Hardwood Sawmilling Industry, particularly with respect to the utilisation of the declining forest resource, and this situation has been further aggravated by the effect of dieback.

There is acceptance of the need to achieve the highest possible yield of forest products with complementary utilisation of the harvested timber. However, the marketing of Western Australian hardwood timber and timber products is highly complex, and very vulnerable to competition from imports and substitute building materials.

Timber marketing will henceforth require even more careful attention as the availability of local pine becomes significant, especially in the structural grades, to ensure that the building industry particularly will utilise all local species with confidence.

For orderly marketing and industrial stability it will be important to maintain a close watch on hardwood and softwood production, and questions such as technical promotion and sales approach in the market place.

It will also be important:-

(a) To ensure that a supply balance is maintained.

(b) To study the processing of hardwood and softwood raw materials into the various forest products in terms of market development and patterns of consumption.

In this regard the demand for sawn timber for dwellings and the types of dwellings being built will be a critical factor. The sizes and density of housing and the trend towards smaller family units will also have an influence.

(c) To study the availability of substitutes which will have an effect on the consumption of timber and timber products.

(d) To monitor the level of imports of timber, especially manufactured products such as mouldings from Malaysia and Singapore sources, and take action as appropriate to maintain stability and orderly marketing in the Western Australian market place.

DEMAND:

The principal markets supplied by producers of W.A. hardwoods are as follows:-

1. The Local Market - which is principally for timber used in housing construction.

2. The Overseas Market - which requires mainly timbers of comparatively large sections for harbour works, railway sleepers and crossings, and mine guides, etc.

3. The Interstate Market - (W.A.'s principal interstate market is that of South Australia which has no indigenous hardwoods) - which is supplied with timber for both housing construction and for larger undertakings.

All three markets are to a large degree inter-related, i.e.:-

(i) In times of down-turn in local and interstate market demand, export business is essential to maintain economic sawmill production.

(ii) To ensure maximum and balanced utilisation of available sawlog material.

In local and interstate markets the health of the industry is largely dependent upon building construction activity, especially cottage construction, which unfortunately continues to be in a depressed state.

Demand is being further affected by:-

(i) Competition from alternative materials.

(ii) The availability of finance.

(iii) The tempo of industrial development and reduced expansion of population.

Shown in Appendix "A" are statistics relative to distribution of W.A. hardwood production, W.A. pine production, imports of timber, and dwelling and house building in W.A.

RESEARCH:

The Association recently made a submission to the CSIRO Review of Forests and Forest Products Problems, highlighting areas requiring attention, ranging from the growing tree to the preparation of the material for manufacture into various products.

The main avenue for consideration of research activity is via the Research, Marketing and Promotion Committee of the Australian Timber Producers Council which is represented, together with other major forest producer interests, on the Forest Products Research Advisory Panel.

Over recent years, with the splitting of the Division of Forest Products into the Division of Building Research and the Division of Applied Chemistry, there has been a reduction through retirements in the number of professional officers, without replacement. This policy must be reversed.

To overcome communication problems which had deteriorated since the splitting of the functions, and to ensure that there is an awareness of Industry requirements, the Joint Committee on Forest Industries has established the Forest Products Research Advisory Panel.

As has been stated in other submissions, the CSIRO, as a national research organisation, has an important part to play in ensuring a viable timber industry in Australia, thus reducing dependence upon imports and providing economic alternatives to products requiring high energy input.

AREAS OF RESEARCH:

Areas of research where there must be an expansive concentration of effort and possibly a much greater degree of co-ordination, are shown in Appendix "B".

PRODUCTIVITY AND INDUSTRY TRAINING:

The Timber Industry of Western Australia has always been alive to the contribution to improved utilisation and performance derived from productivity group activity and industry training.

Five of the six groups currently active in W.A. are timber industry groups, three of these in association with the W.A. Forests Department, and, as with the other timber producing States, W.A. has its own Timber Industry Training Committee, affiliated through the National Timber Industry Training Committee with the National Training Council.

A close and harmonious relationship exists between the W.A. Timber Industry and the two Commonwealth Departments concerned.

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION:

The Australian native timber industry is represented at National level by the Australian Timber Producers Council, which maintains close liaison with both Federal parliamentarians and Federal Government departments.

Native timber industry operations are mainly State-based, and for the most part State-owned resources provide the raw material. State authorities levy royalty and other Government charges, e.g. rail charges, port charges, local government, payroll tax, State Energy Commission charges, etc.

The Federal Government, of course, is concerned with such matters as softwood planting agreements, tariffs, taxation and employment.

Of great concern recently has been the long drawn out consideration by the Federal Government of the IAC draft report on timber, issued last May. A copy of the Submission presented by the Forest Products Association is attached.

The ATPC has expressed concern to the Federal Government that:-

> "The Government departed from the IAC recommendations which were made after a very long, exhaustive and very costly enquiry.
>
> The Government's decision that the Industry be subjected to a further reference to the IAC in eighteen months is a retrograde step. This decision is bad for long term planning by the Industry and is contrary to what the Government should be doing to increase economic activity and employment.

In view of the fact that the Government has a major investment in Australian forestry, the decisions taken are contrary to the long term interests of the Industry and the country.

The Industry expected that such a comprehensive review, as was undertaken by the IAC, would result in a better understanding of its problems and would lead to some worthwhile assistance being accorded to the Australian Industry which is decentralised, is labour intensive, and in many small communities is the only reason for their existence. "

In the above regard, it will be of interest to the Committee that the native timber industry is a non-subsidised one, and has a long record of standing on its own feet.

The Association trusts that the information contained in this Submission will enable the Committee to gain an insight into the Western Australian Timber Industry.

Representatives of the Association attending the Inquiry will provide amplification of the subject matter of the Submission, should this be desired.

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I. PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION OF W.A. HARDWOODS

(a) DIVISION OF TOTAL SAWN PRODUCTION (m^3)

	Sawn Timber (other than Sleepers)	%	Sawn Sleepers	%	Total
1973/74	321 432	86	53 467	14	374 899
1974/75	299 756	81	69 088	19	368 844
1975/76	306 669	80	76 341	20	383 010
1976/77	320 841	87	48 310	13	369 151
1977/78	305 538	88	41 573	12	347 111

(b) DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL SAWN PRODUCTION (m^3)

	Exported Interstate	%	Exported Overseas	%	Retained in W.A.	%	Total
1973/74	63 390	17	34 810	9	276 699	74	374 899
1974/75	44 773	12	46 836	13	277 235	75	368 844
1975/76	47 403	13	46 733	12	288 874	75	383 010
1976/77	37 307	10	34 964	9	296 880	81	369 151
1977/78	28 587	8	25 184	7	293 340	85	347 111

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF SAWN PRODUCTION (m^3)
(other than Sleepers)

	Exported Interstate	%	Exported Overseas	%	Retained in W.A.	%	Total
1973/74	59 378	19	20 989	6	241 065	75	321 432
1974/75	38 940	13	8 833	3	251 983	84	299 756
1975/76	41 619	13	3 239	2	261 811	85	306 669
1976/77	32 683	10	4 552	2	283 606	88	320 841
1977/78	26 937	9	2 165	1	276 436	90	305 538

(d) DISTRIBUTION OF SLEEPER PRODUCTION (m^3)

	Exported Interstate	%	Exported Overseas	%	Retained in W.A.	%	Total
1973/74	4 012	7	13 821	26	35 634	67	53 467
1974/75	5 833	8	38 003	55	25 252	37	69 088
1975/76	5 784	8	43 494	57	27 063	35	76 341
1976/77	4 624	10	30 412	63	13 274	27	48 310
1977/78	1 650	4	23 019	55	16 904	41	41 573

II. TOTAL SAWN PRODUCTION - HARDWOODS AND SOFTWOODS (m^3)

	Hardwood	%	Softwoods	%	Total
1973/74	374 899	93	28 169	7	403 068
1974/75	368 844	93	27 086	7	395 930
1975/76	383 010	96	16 258	4	399 268
1976/77	369 151	96	16 685	4	385 836
1977/78	347 111	95	18 669	5	365 780

III. IMPORTS OF TIMBER FROM OVERSEAS

	Undressed Timber (m^3)	Dressed Timber (m^3)
1973/74	35 526	578
1974/75	16 839	711
1975/76	22 888	1 996
1976/77	42 636	3 095
1977/78	36 848	3 927

IV. WOODEN BEADINGS AND MOULDINGS

	Value ($) V.F.D.
1975/76	75 691
1976/77	134 211
1977/78	163 488

V. HOME BUILDING IN W.A.

(a) DWELLINGS - COMMENCEMENTS

	New Houses	%	Other	%	Total Dwellings
1973/74	12 843	80	3 214	20	16 057
1974/75	9 706	80	2 316	20	12 022
1975/76	14 462	74	5 108	26	19 570
1976/77	13 965	72	5 474	28	19 439
1977/78	11 340	76	3 561	24	14 901

(b) HOUSES - COMPLETIONS (by material of outer walls)

	Brick Stone Cement	%	Brick Veneer	%	Fibro-Cement + Timber & Other	%	Total Houses Built
1973/74	9 596	77	1 604	13	1 317	10	12 517
1974/75	8 135	74	1 511	14	1 348	12	10 994
1975/76	9 286	77	1 312	11	1 482	12	12 080
1976/77	12 288	81	1 424	9	1 443	10	15 155
1977/78	9 531	75	1 810	14	1 344	11	12 685

APPENDIX "B"

ST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

COLIN STREET, WEST PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 6005

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Telegraphic Address: "TIMAS"

Reference: GWK:MJR

Date: 1st December, 1978.

CSIRO COMMITTEE TO REVIEW FOREST AND

FOREST PRODUCTS PROBLEMS

SUBMISSION BY:
FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

This submission was prepared in response to the invitation of the CSIRO Committee to Review Forest and Forest Products Problems.

INTRODUCTION

Forest Products Association (W.A.) is an organisation comprising member companies prominent in the Timber and Wood Products Industries in Western Australia.

Problems facing individual member companies are also of concern on an industry basis, both at State and Australia-wide level.

Member companies of the Association have been encouraged to make individual statements, and this submission seeks to support, and is complementary in expressing, an industry view.

NATIONAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

The main avenue for consideration of research activity is via the Research, Marketing and Promotion Committee of the Australian Timber Producers Council which is represented, together with other major forest producer interests, on the Forest Products Research Advisory Panel.

The Association gives full support to submissions made by individual member companies and highlights areas of specific concern.

Over recent years, with the splitting of the Division of Forest Products into the Division of Building Research and the Division of Applied Chemistry, there has been a reduction through retirements in the number of professional officers, without replacement. This policy must be reversed.

This re-organisation was effected without consultation with Industry.

To overcome communication problems which had deteriorated since the splitting of the functions, and to ensure that there is an awareness of Industry requirements, the Joint Committee on Forest Industries established the Forest Products Research Advisory Panel.

As has been stated in other submissions, the CSIRO, as a national research organisation, has an important part to play in ensuring a viable timber industry in Australia, thus reducing dependence upon imports, and providing economic alternatives to products requiring high energy input.

AREAS OF RESEARCH

Areas of research where there must be an expansive concentration of effort and possibly a much greater degree of co-ordination include the following :-

1. Forest Diseases

Especially Phytophthora cinnamomi, which is ravaging the Jarrah forest of Western Australia.

Although a great deal of work is being undertaken by a number of agencies, there needs to be an organisation officially established to oversee the total effort. It would seem that the CSIRO should have a leading role in this area.

2. Soil disturbance effects due to logging machines

Soil disturbance due to hardwood logging operations is a new and important study area which it is believed should receive Australia-wide attention.

The accommodation of all forest service directives and restrictions on the harvesting of forest resources could well have significant and lasting effect on both forestry and commercial logging operations, and is therefore worthy of CSIRO involvement.

3. Other Subjects which we believe require national co-ordination of effort through the CSIRO are :-

(a) The need to monitor changes brought about in harvesting techniques due to environmental considerations , and the need to advise Industry, is worthy of consideration.

A continuing technical appraisal of changes in harvesting equipment would be of great assistance to Industry.

(b) Fire Protection - the effect of fire on dieback infested forests.

(c) Water value - the effect of logging operations.

(d) Species improvement and regeneration.

4. Forest Conversion

(a) Alternative methods of seasoning hardwood need to be assessed to offset increasing costs of energy.

(b) Continued investigation into :-

(i) Improving all seasoning techniques, e.g. high temperature drying of W.A. hardwoods, and use of solar kilns.

(ii) Improved preservation treatments for W.A. Hardwoods.

(c) The Australia-wide problem of utilisation of sawmill waste, forest waste, and woodchip bark, requires a more intensive approach.

(d) Hardwood sawmilling must undergo changes, with the increasing supply of smaller and shorter logs. Therefore research is warranted into alternative cutting patterns and their economic effect; also up-grading of saw sharpening techniques.

(e) To date, manufactured homes have not seriously competed with site built homes in terms of competitive cost, functional design, aesthetic appeal and far more efficiency. If work is already advanced in this area a thorough joint review with suppliers and the building industry would be warranted; otherwise a very real need is seen for the development of a composite timber framed panel which will lend itself to flexible design, variable cladding and integration with basic framing systems of timber or other materials designed to appropriate engineering specifications.

(f) Industry forecasts that there will be a significant increase in the production of short scantling. There is no known method of producing satisfactory glue bonds in Karri. This is considered to be of future economic importance.

(g) Existing hardwood finishes are still seen by the customer as presenting undesirable characteristics, largely because of a need for periodic renewal. The development of chemical methods of overcoming this would promote the use of indigenous hardwoods for domestic and commercial use. This has particular relevance to the use of Karri.

5. Extension

One of the great disabilities of the CSIRO is the complete lack of published text book material, and availability of research information.

Newsletters and papers, as such, do not lend themselves for use in apprenticeship training or Industry operator training. Nor are they suitable for schools. As a consequence, there are no condensed and illustrated, easily readable text books available to the general public.

Establishment of liaison facilities is suggested as a possible way of achieving the prompt and comprehensive dissemination of existing information and future research results, so as to do full justice to the value of both current and proposed research activities.

6. Land Use

The development of an effective land use policy in the forest area of Western Australia is important. Although there is a great deal of activity being undertaken by various authorities, there is a need for a central approach to evaluation of information and determination of policy for the future use of the forest area.

It is appreciated that work is already in train on most of the topics, but the list will demonstrate the wide interest of Industry in research activity which is being, or should be undertaken by the national based research organisation.

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ATTACHMENT 1.

FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

(W.A. TIMBER DIVISION)

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER, 1978.

103 COLIN STREET, WEST PERTH.   WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Associated Sawmillers & Timber Merchants of W.A.

Interstate Jarrah Export Association.

W.A. Sleeper Export Association.

W.A. Hardwood Export Association.

Plywood Distributors Association of W.A.

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COMPANIES ASSOCIATED WITH
FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

Adelaide Timber Co. Pty. Ltd.
Amalgamated Timber Products Pty. Ltd.
Antonovich Pty. Ltd.
Australian Lumber Co. Pty. Ltd.
Bunning Bros. Pty. Ltd.
G. Coli Pty. Ltd.
Coli Sawmills Pty. Ltd.
Consolidated Pine Industries.
Cullity Timbers.
Engineered Roof Trusses Pty. Ltd.
Gandy Timbers Pty. Ltd.
Geraldton Building Co. Pty. Ltd.
Gibbs Bright & Co. Pty. Ltd.
C. Bert Hood Pty. Ltd.
J.A. House Sawmilling & Grazing Pty. Ltd.
Lewis & Stirk.
McLean Sawmills (1966) Pty. Ltd.
Millars (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.
Plymar Sales.
K.D. Power Sawmilling Co.
Preston Timber Co. Pty. Ltd.
F.S. Reilly Pty. Ltd.
Rijavec & Co.
G.T. & B.Y. Ryan.
Softwood Products (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.
The Sleeper Processing Company.
Timber Wholesalers Pty. Ltd.
W.A. Chip & Pulp Co. Pty. Ltd.
W.A. Sawmillers Pty. Ltd.
Whittakers Limited.
Wilsons Timber & Hardware Pty. Ltd.
Worsley Timber Pty. Ltd.

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W.A. TIMBER DIVISION

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1978.

CHAIRMAN:	V.R. Whittaker.
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:	V.R. Whittaker. B.W. Bryant. R.D. Ireland, M.B.E.
TRUSTEES:	B.W. Bryant. C.E. Day. V.R. Whittaker.

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EXECUTIVE STAFF:

Manager:	G.W. Kelly, M.B.E.
Technical Promotion Officer:	B.A. O'Brien.
Administrative Officer and Export Secretary:	F.S. Cox.
Secretary to Manager:	(Mrs.) J.M. Motteram.

SOLICITORS:	Downing & Downing.
AUDITORS:	S.M. Reilly & Co.
BANKERS:	Bank of New South Wales.

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FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

Gentlemen,

Your Management Committee submits its Annual Report to Members for the year ended 31st December 1978.

The local market recession, combined with increasing costs beyond the control of the Industry, will mark the past twelve months as being reminiscent of the depression years.

A more stable environment, combined with expected reductions in the inflation rate, and possible further reductions in interest rates, should help a return of confidence in consumer spending and make the outlook for the economy in 1979 one of cautious optimism.

In my final year as your Chairman, I take the opportunity of expressing my sincere appreciation of the support given by Management Committee members and by the many Industry executives who have played an important part in Association affairs.

The Report deals with many aspects of Association activity, the scope and importance of which are well-known to all Members.

V.R. WHITTAKER.
CHAIRMAN.

MEMBERSHIP

A welcome to membership is extended to :-

Softwood Products (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.

G.T. & B.Y. Ryan.

STAFF

Mr. B.A. O'Brien joined the staff as Technical Promotion Officer on 12th June 1978.

PRODUCTION

Sawmills

At 31st December 1977 there were 139 sawmills registered of which 79 operated on Crown Land and 60 on private property.

Three major hardwood sawmills closed during the year.

Total Sawn Production

The production of 365 780 cubic metres of sawn timber (hardwood and softwood) was a decrease of 20 056 cubic metres on the 1976/77 figure. Of the total output 41 406 cubic metres came from private property, an increase of 3363 cubic metres on the previous year's figure.

Hardwood

Whereas in 1976/77 sleeper production amounted to 48 310 cubic metres of total sawn production, this year the volume decreased to 41 573 cubic metres. Hardwood general purpose cutting decreased by 15 303 cubic metres to 305 538 cubic metres.

Pine

Roundwood production from Departmental plantations, mainly in the form of thinnings, amounted to 125 548 cubic metres.

Sawn production totalled 18 669 cubic metres, an increase of 1984 cubic metres on the 1976/77 production.

Pine plantations established by the Forests Department now total 43 075 ha, comprising Pinus radiata 20 097 ha, and Pinus pinaster and other species 22 978 ha. Private pine forest has now reached a total area of 10 656 ha.

(Detailed statistics are shown in the Report's appendices.)

DISTRIBUTION

Trading Conditions

The slump in the W.A. housing industry continued into 1978. The reduced level of activity is apparent when examining trends in new housing commencements.

The number of commencements in 1977/78 totalled 11,340 - a decrease of 19 per cent on the number of houses commenced in 1976/77. The money value of housing commencements fell by $48 million.

Flat commencements also fell from 5,474 units in 1976/77 to 3,561 in 1977/78.

While investment in new dwellings has tapered off, expenditure on alterations and additions to the existing stock of houses has increased by $6 million to $23 million in 1977/78.

The annual average growth in the number of dwellings completed is shown below :-

1960/61 - 1969/70	+ 12.6 per cent.
1970/71 - 1977/78	- 0.2 per cent.
1977/78	- 21.2 per cent.

The number of new houses approved in July to December 1978 (4,660 units) gives a depressing pointer to the future health of the housing industry when viewed against the approvals total for the similar period in 1977 - 5,493.

Exports

Overseas trade improved significantly, especially during the second half of the year when efforts to establish new markets were rewarded by the securing of on-going orders of appreciable volume.

This was particularly gratifying in the light of the depressed state of the local market.

Interstate sales during the year generally were quiet. However, there are some signs of improvement.

Imports

The volume of sawn wood imports during 1977/78 decreased in relation to the previous year, i.e. from 45 731 cubic metres to 40 329 cubic metres.

Sleeper imports totalled 15 879 cubic metres, from Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore.

Sleepers

Although sleeper production for the year 1977/78 was down on the preceding year, world-wide demand for hardwood sleepers is intensifying, particularly for large section sleepers for heavily loaded lines.

Whilst this has created increased opportunities for Karri, the ability to produce the required thicknesses in Jarrah is steadily reducing and unfortunately so too is the demand for small sleepers.

Sleeper Processing

Establishment of a new facility at Picton and the closure of the Bunbury plant became mandatory with the signing of a contract with Westrail to process their 1977/78 sleeper requirement. This contract was later extended to cover Westrail's 1978/79 programme.

Work is progressing on the extension of the Picton plant to improve its versatility and capacity.

FORESTRY

Minister for Forests

The Association extends its congratulations to the Hon. D.J. Wordsworth, M.L.C. on his appointment as Minister for Lands and Forests.

In December 1978, the Minister inspected industry operations located in the Kewdale/Welshpool area.

Consultative Committee on Forestry and Timber

Regular meetings of this Committee were held throughout the year under the alternating Chairmanship of the Conservator of Forests and the Chairman of the W.A. Timber Division.

Royalty

Cabinet approved a 20 per cent increase in Karri sawlog royalties and 15 per cent in sawlog royalties for Jarrah and other species, and also a corresponding increase of 15 per cent on hardwood poles, piles and bridge timbers, etc., effective from 1st October 1978 - the overall average being 16.3 per cent.

The Industry had been advised originally that the Department would recommend a 25 per cent increase.

The upward movement in royalty levels could not have come at a more inopportune time, as evidenced by the depression in the W.A. house building industry, and in interstate markets.

Dieback Air Map Scheme

The Forests Department next autumn will begin a six-year aerial mapping programme of dieback areas in the Jarrah Forest.

When completed it will cover the 7200 square kilometres under quarantine.

It will also give the most accurate assessment yet of the distribution and intensity of the disease.

Australian Forest Development Institute

Mr. R.G. Bunning was re-elected to the Council of the Institute, representing members' interests on that organisation.

Studies

Studies currently being undertaken jointly by the Forests Department and the Association include :-

Rehabilitation after logging.

Log stockpiling.

Bush Fires Board

Mr. A.G.R. Whittaker continued as the Industry's representative on the Bush Fires Board during 1978.

PINE INDUSTRY

The sale of two of the Forests Department's pine sawmills, and the leasing of a third mill at Pemberton, marks the entry of private enterprise into the developing Pine Sawmilling Industry.

The sale of the sawmills at Grimwade and Margaret River specify the construction of two new softwood mills with a capacity for an annual intake of 50 000 cubic metres each of pine logs by 1982-1985.

However, extensive plantation losses caused by Cyclone Alby will require a re-assessment of the projected development. Damage is estimated as follows :-

70-100 per cent broken	399 ha.
Bent (felling necessary)	418 ha.
Slightly bent	333 ha.

The net volume loss as a result of Cyclone Alby is estimated at 154 400 cubic metres.

Further salvage will be possible in some areas; however, of more importance in the long term is the loss of future growth of established trees, estimated to exceed 300 000 cubic metres by 1995.

The change-over from State to private management took place on the 1st March 1978.

The Forests Department has retained one sawmill at Harvey as an experimental mill to supply timber to a new high temperature kiln. The mill and the kiln are primarily used to establish the characteristics of and specifications for Pinus pinaster timber.

PINE PROMOTION AND MARKETING

In November the Forests Department and the Association sponsored a W.A. Softwood Industry meeting with Mr. Bruce Rumball, Manager of the Radiata Pine Association of Australia, when useful discussion centred on :-

* Changes occurring in the softwood industry.
* Future development of the pine industry.
* Market development / Quality control.

Thirty company executives and Forests Department officers were in attendance.

WOODCHIP INDUSTRY

A total of 434 377 cubic metres of Marri and Karri chiplogs were received at the W.A. Chip & Pulp Company's mill near Manjimup for the production of woodchips. The intake consisted of 76 per cent Marri and 24 per cent Karri.

This material, unsuitable for sawmilling, came from a total area of 3250 ha, of which 2955 ha were Marri/Karri forest and 295 ha were of Jarrah/Marri forest.

NORTHERN FOREST AREA

The Industry is concerned in obtaining a perpetual log resource for existing sawmills to meet the constant demand for hardwood timbers, and in achieving long-term work opportunities for the workforce.

Accordingly, comments and recommendations were submitted to the Department of Conservation and Environment in respect of the Alcoa of Australia Ltd. "Environmental Review and Management Programme".

A summary of the recommendations is set out below :-

1. Alternative mining areas need to be considered for the least destruction of protectable forest areas and to allow for the practice of multiple land use management of Crown lands.

2. Rehabilitation of areas five times the mined area are recommended. Hardwoods with commercial potential are considered a compatible component of rehabilitation for all environmental aspects.

3. Conservation of particular forest types is considered necessary.

4. Legislation or legal agreements are recommended to be drawn up for limiting the rate of mining not only for Wagerup but Jarrahdale and Pinjarra as well.

   The problems expected at Wagerup will occur earlier at Pinjarra.

5. A soundly funded Forest Research Foundation is considered necessary to investigate the dieback disease and salt problems.

It is satisfying to record that the formation of a Dieback Research Foundation has since been announced, and the Association looks forward to active participation in that organisation.

The situation of the Timber Industry in relation to Bauxite Mining was also a matter of conference with the Minister for Industrial Development, Mining Companies, and the Forest Industries Environmental Advisory Committee.

In June 1978 the Northern Area Productivity Group inspected the Alcoa mining and refining operations, observing mine site rehabilitation procedures including regeneration trials and erosion control.

The Forest Department's Annual Report for 1977/78 records that a total of 223 ha of bauxite pits in State Forest were rehabilitated at Jarrahdale and Dwellingup.

ENVIRONMENT

Forest Industries Environmental Advisory Committee

This Committee continued to provide useful advice and guidance to the Association, especially in matters associated with forest diseases and mining activities in the Northern Forest Area.

Film

Early last year the Consultative Committee on Forestry and Timber recommended the production of a 24-minute 16mm film entitled "Forests are Forever".

The film, at a cost of $30,000, is being sponsored by the Industry, including forestry, hardwood and pine sawmilling, woodchips, plywood and particle board.

It is expected that the film will be completed early next year as a contribution to the 150th Anniversary Celebrations, and should prove immensely valuable to the Industry in conveying to the media, the general public, schools and other interested organisations the contribution that the Industry has made to the State in the past, and how it will contribute in the future.

The film will cover all aspects of Industry operation including environmental considerations.

AUSTRALIAN TIMBER PRODUCERS COUNCIL

Mr. B.G. Clennett was elected Chairman of A.T.P.C. for the 1978/79 year.

The most important matters progressed at national level were :-

1. The Industries Assistance Commission Reports on Timber and Timber Products, and Plywood and Veneer, released on 12th May 1978 in accordance with the references of 18/8/76 and 24/9/76.

2. The Report on Stimulating Home Building Activity, prepared by Professor Warren Hogan of Sydney University and submitted to the Australian Government.

At a special function held in Canberra, the Council briefed the following Federal Ministers on these topics :-

The Hons. I. McPhee, Minister for Productivity.
R.J. Groom, Minister for Environment, Housing & Community Development.
A.A. Street, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations.

Industries Assistance Commission

Despite strong and continuing representations to Federal Ministers, other Parliamentarians and Government departmental committees, Cabinet action on the I.A.C. Report was delayed until 15th December 1978.

It is disappointing to record that the Cabinet decision, announced on the 15th December, fell short of the I.A.C. recommendations, and that the Industry will be subjected to a further reference to the I.A.C. so that tariffs can be reviewed by the Government in about 2½ years time.

Under the duty structure decided, the following rates will now apply :-

* Flitches - minimum rates.

* Other forms of sawn timber - free or dutiable at five or ten per cent according to species.

* Square dressed timber - 15 per cent.

* Other dressed timber and mouldings - 22½ per cent.

* Veneer sheets - 15 per cent (i.e. about the average of the current rates of 9 to 22½ per cent).

* Thick and thin plywood entering at normal rates - 40 per cent (instead of 44 per cent as at present). The tariff quotas on thick plywood will continue with the base period for calculating quotas changed to 1977-78 w.e.f. 1 July 1979.

* Particleboard, hardboard and laminated boards other than plywood - 30 per cent (no change).

* Louvred goods, tool, broom and brush handles, picture and other frames - 22½ per cent.

* Most other goods - 15 per cent.

The duties on sawn timber are lower than the 15 per cent duty recommended by the I.A.C. but represent a marginal increase over the existing specific rates.

Housing

The Committee of Inquiry into Housing costs sent its report entitled "The Cost of Housing" to the Commonwealth Government in July 1978, and the report was released at the end of September.

Included amongst the recommendations was one that "Commonwealth should introduce a secondary (bulk) mortgage agency as a means of stabilising fund flows over time and between regions within the constraint imposed by broad monetary policy".

It is interesting to note that the establishment of a secondary mortgage market was one of the suggestions made in the Hogan Report submitted to the Australian Government.

Resignation of the Executive Director

Mr. T.J. McCarthy resigned from the position of Executive Director of A.T.P.C. at the end of November 1978.

The future operation of the Council is once again under the microscope, and a subject for close consideration by the constituent organisations.

TECHNICAL

The appointment of Mr. Barry O'Brien as Technical Promotion Officer in June 1978 provided the impetus for the widening of Association activity in technical training and promotion, and education areas.

The past six months has seen :-

* An intensification of grader training to ensure the acceptance and economic use of the Timber Framing Code AS1684, and the unqualified adoption of the Code.

* The commencement of the necessary training for the establishment of an Industry-based grade branding scheme for structural timbers.

* Co-operation with the State Housing Commission in the revision of standard specifications.

* Lectures and discussions within Industry, and to building supervisors in consultatior with the Housing Industry Association.

* Improved liaison with technical education authorities and the building industry.

* Preparation of hand-out material for technical schools.

* Commencement of work on technical information sheets to assist the building industry in the proper understanding of the Timber Framing Code.

* Steps being taken to improve the timber section of the materials and technology component of architectural courses.

* An increase in technical enquiries from both Government and private specifying organisations.

Sleeper Technical Group

During August, inspections of the various sleeper test sites, and of the processing plant at Picton, were carried out by Group members, including Mr. Frank Dale of C.S.I.R.O. A report of their findings was made to the W.A. Sleeper Export Association.

South-West Regional Development Committee

Mr. E.A. Sprengel continues to represent the Industry on the South-West Regional Development Committee, which operates under the auspices of the Department of Industrial Development.

C.S.I.R.O.

Continuous liaison was maintained with the Division of Building Research, C.S.I.R.O., throughout 1978.

Retirements

The Chief of the Division of Building Research, Dr. R.W. Muncey, retired during the year. To date, no new appointment has been made.

Mr. F.A. Dale of the Conservation and Biodegradation Section also retired in 1978. His duties have been taken over by Mr. C.W. Chin.

Review of Forest and Forest Products Problems

The Association and several member companies made written submissions to the C.S.I.R.O. Committee to Review Forest and Forest Products Problems.

Field Days

Two field days were arranged for Senior Officers of the State Housing Commission to inspect Industry sawmilling and manufacturing practices at country and metropolitan establishments, with particular emphasis on engineered timber frame house construction, both factory produced and from component products for on-site assembly.

Standards Association

The Association maintained a watching brief on the activities of the various Standards Association committees concerning timber and timber products.

Standards

New Standards relating to the timber industry published during 1978 included :-

AS1748/49 - 1978	Mechanically Stress-Graded Timber, and Rules for Mechanical Stress-Grading of Timber.
AS2146/47 - 1978	Timber Window Assemblies.

AS2159 - 1978	SAA Piling Code.
AS2178 - 1978	Treatment of Subterranean Termite Infestation in Existing Buildings.

Liaison with Government Bodies

Liaison with Government bodies during the year was continued, and included a special conference with the Minister for Housing on the use of timber materials in building construction.

Housing Industry Association

At the Annual General Meeting of the Housing Industry Association held in May, Mr. I.J. Harrold was re-elected a Councillor, and continues to represent the Industry on the H.I.A. Council.

W.A. Forest Industries Fellowship

The successful recipient of the 1978 W.A. Forest Industries Fellowship was Mr. David Chandler, B.Arch.(Hons.), currently employed by the Public Works Department.

Mr. Chandler will be departing overseas in February 1979 and has defined his study topic as "The Possible Future Use of Pre-fabricated Timber Components in the W.A. Building Industry". He proposes visiting the United Kingdom, Sweden, America and Canada.

The annual Travel Fellowship (value $1500) enables students to travel overseas to broaden their knowledge of architecture, in particular timber technology and design.

Timber Advisory Service

During the year interest continued to be expressed by schools, libraries and the general public in information regarding timber and timber products. Technical and general literature was distributed on request, and many enquiries both by letter and telephone were handled by the staff.

Technical and Product Literature

A revised edition of the school project hardwood booklet under the new title of "Western Australia's Wonderful Timbers" was issued during the year.

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO HOUSING COSTS

A report on the National Inquiry into Housing Costs was handed down in 1978 with 36 recommendations.

It will be recalled that the Association submitted a statement on a number of influences which it believes cause unnecessary cost factors in cottage building.

The Committee's major recommendations were :-

* Each State should establish a Ministerial portfolio responsible for urban and housing policy.

* Each State should appoint a Director of Land Supply.

* Land developers should not have to pay for the present full range of services.

* Each State should review its planning, approval and development processes to rationalise its approval procedures.

Data examined by the Committee showed that while dwelling costs had fluctuated, with significant increases in some years, these had been overshadowed by increases in the cost of land.

TRAINING

The W.A. Timber Industry Training Committee continued its activities during 1978 with the full committee meeting on three occasions and the working party on four, as well as being actively represented at National Timber Industry Council meetings at Brisbane and Launceston, and at a training seminar organised jointly by the National Training Council and the Industry Training Advisory Council to coincide with the N.T.C. meeting held in Perth in November.

Opportunity was taken during the year to conduct representatives of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations and Teched on a comprehensive tour of South-West based activities and installations.

W.A.T.I.T.C. endorsed Association measures to re-introduce grader training, resulting in the conducting of two successful series, with a total of 77 men undergoing training.

As an aid to training in the sales area, a projector and audio-visual series were purchased. These are available to members.

The first edition of a six-monthly Training Newsletter was circulated to members in October.

PRODUCTIVITY

C.C.F.T. Productivity Groups

Each of the three groups met regularly throughout the year, culminating in a joint meeting of group executives at which the year's activity and plans for the future were discussed.

Problems have been identified in the following areas :-

* Jarrah Dieback.
* Soil disturbance as a result of winter logging.
* Soil erosion in catchment areas.
* Utilisation in bush and mill, with particular emphasis on small and poor quality logs.
* Log stockpiling.
* Rehabilitation of soil disturbed areas, including mine pits.

Action to minimise and hopefully eliminate many of these problems has been initiated and will continue during the forthcoming year.

Metropolitan Area Productivity Group

This group met on three occasions. Unfortunately, activity was confined to the Welshpool operations of only two members.

W.A. Sawmilling Productivity Group

The sawmilling group also met on three occasions. Field activity included :-

* The conversion and utilisation of small Jarrah logs at Greenbushes.
* Mill inspections at East Witchcliffe, Margaret River and Busselton.
* Inspection of pine-log stockpile at Greenbushes and the Laport plant, and the WACAP chip-berth at Bunbury.

W.A. SHIPPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

With the granting by the Australian Shippers Council of associate membership, W.A.S.A.C. has been able to directly represent W.A. shipper interests in the deliberations and negotiations of that body.

This has resulted in an increased level of activity and, . all, ten meetings were attended by the Association Export Secretary during 1978.

Mr. Cox, who was elected Deputy Chairman during the year, represented W.A.S.A.C. at the annual general meeting of A.S.C. in Sydney in September.

Mr. J.G. Kelderman, who is convenor of W.A.S.A.C.'s Sub-Committee 9 (New Zealand), was actively involved in freigh rate negotiations between A.S.C. and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, and was able to contribute directl to the measure of success achieved by shippers during thes negotiations in limiting increases.

INDUSTRIAL

During the year the Association maintained close liaison and consultation with senior officers of the various union associated with the W.A. Timber Industry operations, and with officers of the Labour Relations Division of The Confederation of Western Australian Industry (Inc.).

Mr. Ron Ridley succeeded Mr. Roy Hillier as Secretary of the Metropolitan Timber Yard Workers Union, following Mr. Hillier's retirement in September.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

The Association was represented at the following Conference and Meetings during 1978 :-

* Conferences

  AUS.T.I.S. Conference.

  10th All-Australia Timber Congress.
  (Theme: "Wood - Environment for Living")

  Energy Conservation Seminar.
  (Productivity Promotion Council/State Energy Commission of W.A.)

  2nd National Conference of Productivity Group Chairmen.

* Meetings

  Australian Shippers Council.

  Australian Timber Producers Council.

  Productivity Promotion Council.

  W.A. Shippers Advisory Committee.

International Rail Sleeper Conference

The 3rd International Rail Sleeper Conference will be held in Brisbane in September 1979, and the theme will be "Up-grading the Track".

DONATIONS

Institute of Carpenters

The Association will be a major sponsor in the 1979 Woodworking Craftsman Competition programmed as part of the W.A. 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

This competition will be conducted by the Institute of Carpenters, W.A. Section.

South-West District Display

The Association again made a grant to the South-West Group of Affiliated Agricultural Societies to assist in the presentation of their exhibit at the 1978 Royal Agricultural Show.

It is pleasing to record that the Group once again received a major award for its effort.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

In August 1978 an informal function was held at Association Headquarters to farewell the departing Minister for Forests, the Hon. M.J. Craig, M.L.A., and to welcome the incoming Minister, the Hon. D.J. Wordsworth, M.L.C.

Functions marking the retirement of various Industry leaders and others were held during the year :-

* Messrs. R.C. Collins, C.E. Day, and J. McMullen. (Senior Industry Executives)
* Mr. R.J. Pascoe. (Commissioner for Railways)
* Mr. I.J. Kinshela. (Chief Traffic Manager, Westrail)
* Mr. R. Hillier. (Secretary, Metropolitan Timber Yard Workers Union)
* Mr. F. Dale. (C.S.I.R.O.)

Other functions included :-

* In March 1978 the Imported Timbers Division welcomed the Indonesian Trade Mission at a function in the Association Board Room.

* Members were hosts at a Christmas function held at Association Headquarters on 6th December.

* On 8th December, the Plywood Distributors Association held its annual Christmas gathering at the Celtic Club.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Association records its appreciation of the co-operation and assistance received throughout the year from the various timber associations and allied trade organisations, and also from officers of Federal and State Government departments.

I would also like to extend my appreciation and thanks to all members for their loyal support, co-operation and interest in Association activities.

STAFF

On behalf of all members, it is my pleasure to record their appreciation to the Association Manager and his staff for their untiring efforts during this busy year, and the co-operative and efficient manner in which they have carried out their duties.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we record the death during 1978 of :-

A. McArthur.

T.C. Moss.

V.R. WHITTAKER.
CHAIRMAN.

STATISTICS

The statistics and graphs presented in this section of the Report are based on information supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Timber Supply Review, and the W.A. Forests Department.

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I. PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION OF W.A. HARDWOODS

(a) DIVISION OF TOTAL SAWN PRODUCTION (m^3)

	Sawn Timber (other than Sleepers)	%	Sawn Sleepers	%	Total
1973/74	321 432	86	53 467	14	374 899
1974/75	299 756	81	69 088	19	368 844
1975/76	306 669	80	76 341	20	383 010
1976/77	320 841	87	48 310	13	369 151
1977/78	305 538	88	41 573	12	347 111

(b) DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL SAWN PRODUCTION (m^3)

	Exported Interstate	%	Exported Overseas	%	Retained in W.A.	%	Total
1973/74	63 390	17	34 810	9	276 699	74	374 899
1974/75	44 773	12	46 836	13	277 235	75	368 844
1975/76	47 403	13	46 733	12	288 874	75	383 010
1976/77	37 307	10	34 964	9	296 880	81	369 151
1977/78	28 587	8	25 184	7	293 340	85	347 111

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF SAWN PRODUCTION (m^3)
(other than Sleepers)

	Exported Interstate	%	Exported Overseas	%	Retained in W.A.	%	Total
1973/74	59 378	19	20 989	6	241 065	75	321 432
1974/75	38 940	13	8 833	3	251 983	84	299 756
1975/76	41 619	13	3 239	2	261 811	85	306 669
1976/77	32 683	10	4 552	2	283 606	88	320 841
1977/78	26 937	9	2 165	1	276 436	90	305 538

(d) DISTRIBUTION OF SLEEPER PRODUCTION (m^3)

	Exported Interstate	%	Exported Overseas	%	Retained in W.A.	%	Total
1973/74	4 012	7	13 821	26	35 634	67	53 467
1974/75	5 833	8	38 003	55	25 252	37	69 088
1975/76	5 784	8	43 494	57	27 063	35	76 341
1976/77	4 624	10	30 412	63	13 274	27	48 310
1977/78	1 650	4	23 019	55	16 904	41	41 573

II. TOTAL SAWN PRODUCTION - HARDWOODS AND SOFTWOODS (m^3)

	Hardwood	%	Softwoods	%	Total
1973/74	374 899	93	28 169	7	403 068
1974/75	368 844	93	27 086	7	395 930
1975/76	383 010	96	16 258	4	399 268
1976/77	369 151	96	16 685	4	385 836
1977/78	347 111	95	18 669	5	365 780

III. IMPORTS OF TIMBER FROM OVERSEAS

	Undressed Timber (m^3)	Dressed Timber (m^3)
1973/74	35 526	578
1974/75	16 839	711
1975/76	22 888	1 996
1976/77	42 636	3 095
1977/78	36 848	3 927

IV. WOODEN BEADINGS AND MOULDINGS

	Value ($) V.F.D.
1975/76	75 691
1976/77	134 211
1977/78	163 488

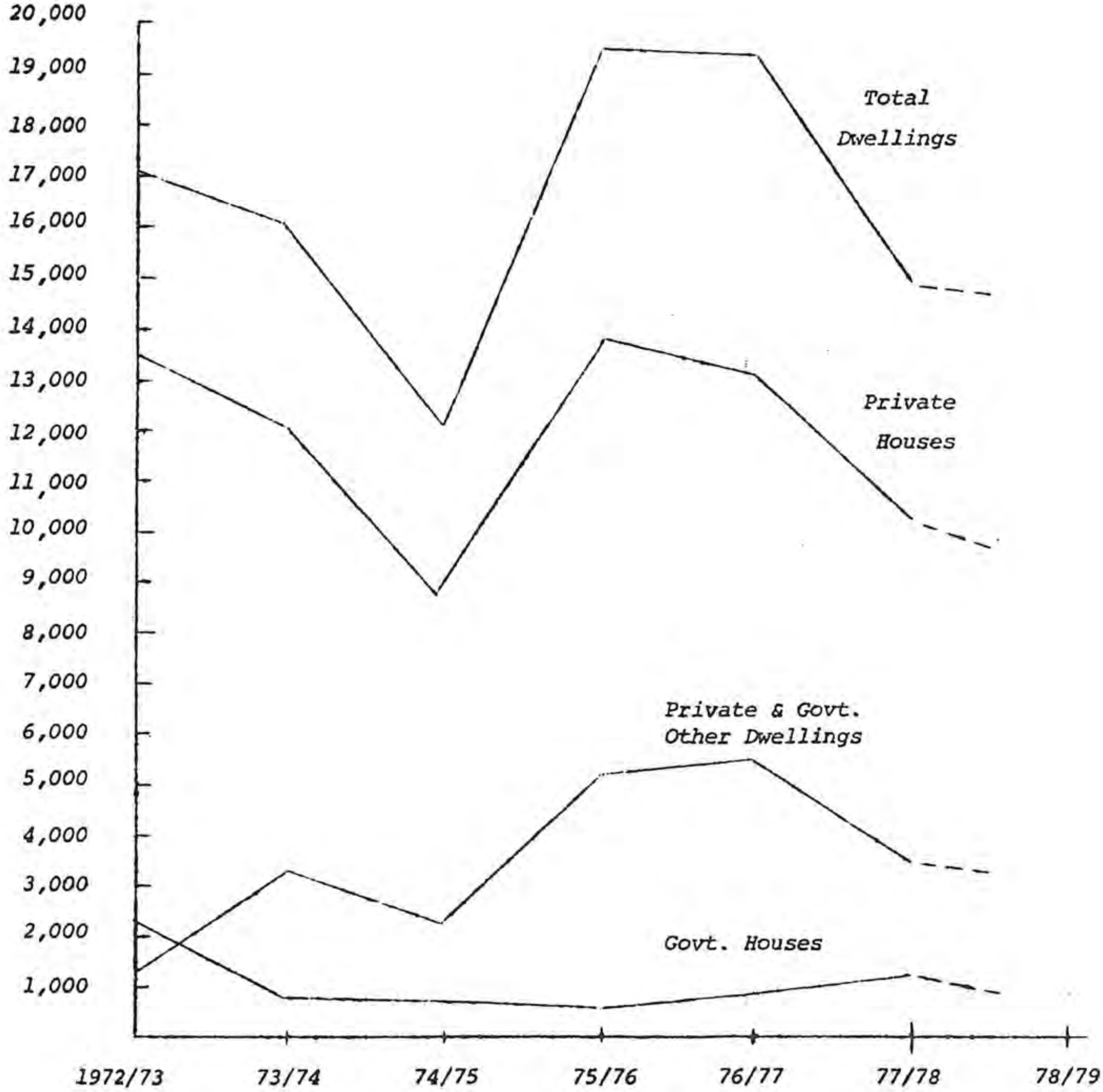
V. HOME BUILDING IN W.A.

(a) DWELLINGS - COMMENCEMENTS

	New Houses	%	Other	%	Total Dwellings
1973/74	12 843	80	3 214	20	16 057
1974/75	9 706	80	2 316	20	12 022
1975/76	14 462	74	5 108	26	19 570
1976/77	13 965	72	5 474	28	19 439
1977/78	11 340	76	3 561	24	14 901

(b) HOUSES - COMPLETIONS (by material of outer walls)

	Brick Stone Cement	%	Brick Veneer	%	Fibro-Cement + Timber & Other	%	Total Houses Built
1973/74	9 596	77	1 604	13	1 317	10	12 517
1974/75	8 135	74	1 511	14	1 348	12	10 994
1975/76	9 286	77	1 312	11	1 482	12	12 080
1976/77	12 288	81	1 424	9	1 443	10	15 155
1977/78	9 531	75	1 810	14	1 344	11	12 685



HOUSE AND DWELLING COMMENCEMENTS (W.A.)

ATTACHMENT 2.

I N Q U I R Y

INTO TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

BY THE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

SUBMISSION BY FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

PRESENTED BY G.W. KELLY, MANAGER.

7TH JUNE, 1977.

SUBMISSION TO THE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION INQUIRY

INTO TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

BY FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

This submission on behalf of Forest Products Association (W.A.), (W.A. Timber Division), should be read as complementary to that submitted by the Australian Timber Producers Council of which Forest Products Association (W.A.) is an active constituent organisation.

The requests submitted by the Association are :-

(a) That the existing rates of duty be maintained.

(b) That appropriate action is taken to maintain home building at optimum levels.

(c) That funds continue for the maintenance and, where appropriate, the extension of Softwood plantations, as well as the introduction of a similar programme for the regeneration of Hardwoods.

(d) That sales tax on logging vehicles and equipment is removed.

1. INTRODUCTION

Forest Products Association (W.A.) is an organisation comprising member companies prominent in the timber and wood based products industries in Western Australia.

These companies are involved in a range of activities including :-

- Felling and logging in south-west forest areas.
- Sawmilling and conversion of logs.
- Processing of a wide range of timber and wood based products (including imported timbers), e.g. laminated products, roof trusses, factory-produced houses, and joinery.
- Marketing and sale of these products in diverse markets.
- Importing of timber from overseas sources.
- Distribution of plywood products.

This submission seeks to outline principally the views of the W.A. Timber Division of the Association, which produces more than 90% of the timber products in Western Australia. (Appendix "A")

Other Divisions of the Association are made up of organisations directly concerned with the importing of timber products, plywood distribution, Pine timbers, and woodchips. (Appendix "B")

The extent of the production and distribution of W.A. Hardwoods and Softwoods can be observed from statistics set out in Appendix "C".

In connection with these statistics, the following points are worthy of interest :-

(a) Quantity retained in Western Australia does not necessarily indicate actual consumption per year because of variations in stock on hand at beginning and end of year.

(b) Average annual production of Hardwood and Softwood for the 5 years to 1975/76 was 399 358 m^3.

(c) Softwoods: Quantity becoming available from Western Australia has been mainly small section material suitable for furniture and case-making.

(d) Total usage of sawn timber in Western Australia in the past 5 years averaged approximately 258 500 m^3 per annum produced in Western Australia, with a relatively small volume being imported from overseas.

2. DEMAND

(a) Markets

In very recent years all sections of the Industry have operated at, or close to, full capacity levels.

The principal markets supplied by Western Australian Hardwoods are :-

(i) The local market - which is mainly for timbers used in housing construction, and general purpose usage including railway sleepers and crossings.

(ii) The interstate market (Western Australia's principal interstate market is that of South Australia which has no indigenous hardwoods) - which is supplied with timber for housing construction.

(iii) The overseas market - which requires mainly timber of comparatively large section for railway sleepers and crossings, harbour works, mine guides, etc.

All three markets are to a large degree inter-related in that the production of large section timbers and sleepers results in an up-throw of scantling timber suitable for building purposes. Therefore any falling away in demand in any one of the three markets can cause difficulties in the remaining two because of the resultant disturbance to "balanced cut" programmes.

(b) Housing

The level of the Western Australian house building programme relates to the bulk of timber and timber products usage, and it will be observed from the statistics referring to commencements and completions (Appendix "D") that apart from a slackening off in 1974/75, the W.A. housing market has remained fairly buoyant. Alterations and additions to houses have achieved considerable growth in the past two years and have contributed to the reasonably satisfactory market situation.

However, fluctuations in the building industry affecting the level of demand are the major obstacles in maintaining a stable level of production.

3. W.A. HARDWOOD AND SOFTWOOD RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Hardwood sawlog availability (990 000 m^3 in 1976) is expected to decrease by 137 000 m^3 (15%) by 1981, and by the year 2010 to be reduced to approximately 315 000 m^3.

The reduction in Hardwood cut is expected to be offset to a large extent by the introduction of a Softwood timber industry which, hopefully by the year 2000, will produce 450 000 m^3 annually of sawlogs as compared with a little in excess of 400 000 m^3 of Hardwood sawlogs.

Henceforth, Hardwood log supplies from private property are expected to progressively decline and will have no influence on demand patterns. On the other hand, private Softwood plantations are expected to make a significant contribution in years to come.

Currently, private plantations total almost 8000 ha. as compared with 40 000 ha. planted by the W.A. Forests Department.

It is understood that the W.A. Forests Department has made a submission to the Inquiry outlining the current and future resource situation in more detail, and the need for planning for self-sufficiency in timber and timber products in the long term.

The effects of the planned cut-back in Hardwood resource availability will have a severe impact on the Hardwood sawmilling industry, and it is to be hoped that the introduction of the proposed Softwood sawmilling industry will be carefully integrated with the existing industry structure. The phased reduction in Hardwood intake in the next 10 to 15 years will involve a gradual re-structuring of the Hardwood sawmilling industry. In fact, sawmilling companies have already had Hardwood permissible intakes substantially reduced.

4. PRODUCTION

The business of the sawmiller is that of supplying raw material for a variety of manufacturing requirements, and the achievement of the aim of utilising the raw material as completely as possible at the lowest possible cost consistent with good quality.

Over recent years, Association members have invested considerable sums of money in the renovation of sawmills, and the building of new sawmills as a means to improve methods and increase efficiency. Large amounts of money have also been spent in establishing modern systems of distribution.

Major sawmills are equipped with the most modern machinery, with kiln drying facilities and manufacturing plants. There are also centralised facilities being established in such timber towns as Manjimup and Yarloop.

Production is divided into the following main categories :-

Sawn timber for structural purposes.

Seasoned timber for processing and manufacture into flooring, linings, siding boards, mouldings, and joinery.

Sleepers and crossings.

Case material.

(a) Processes

Processes used in the preparation of the raw material to meet the requirements of manufacturers and end-users include :-

Kiln drying.

Wood preservation treatment.

Precutting for building fabrication.

Profiling (machining of flooring, mouldings, joinery components, engineered roof trusses, etc.).

Manufacture of joinery, including doors.

Assembly of mosaic flooring panels.

Laminating.

(b) Research and Development

Member companies and the Association are actively engaged in the field of research and development, subjects under investigation including :-

Timber engineering.

Quality control and grading of both Hardwood and Softwood.

Laminated products.

Preservative treatment.

Processing of timber products.

Timber seasoning.

Training.

Environmental considerations.

Various studies in conjunction with the W.A. Forests Department, e.g. environmental logging, log utilisation, and safety.

(c) Capacity

The Industry is well equipped to mill and process all log timber currently available from State forests and private property resources. At present, such capacity substantially meets the domestic needs of the State, and provides a surplus for export interstate and overseas.

5. SALES AND MARKETING

(a) Volume and Value of Sales

Association members market timber and timber products to a variety of customers, i.e. distributors, wholesalers, retailers and end-users in Western Australia.

(i) Local Sales

It is estimated that local sales exceed $75 million annually.

(ii) Export Sales (excluding furniture)

In 1974/75 (the latest statistics available) export sales exceeded $9 million. (Appendix "E")

(iii) Members of the Association provide for the timber requirements of :-

Building construction (housing, commercial, industrial and farm buildings).
Prefabricated and transportable buildings of all types.
Railway construction.
Bridge and jetty works.
Motor body building.
Fruit cases and packing cases.
Mining operations.
Telegraph arms.
Furniture manufacture.
Boat building.
Pallet manufacture.

(b) Marketing System

As processing and distribution have been geared to production and demand, a balanced system has developed in Western Australia which has assured industry stability over a long period. More than 55 timber distribution centres throughout the State maintained by sawmilling companies service the needs of the building industry and the community generally.

6. THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN THE STATE ECONOMY

Timber is the mainstay of the lower south-west of the State, whole towns being dependent upon its activities.

Quite apart from those directly engaged in the Industry, retail traders, transport drivers, and those engaged in a wide range of services in the timber towns depend vitally upon a prosperous industry.

An important feature of the timber industry is that it is one of the few industries which has been responsible for a large degree of desirable decentralised development. Towns with all amenities such as schools, hospitals, water supplies, and the general community needs, have grown up around sawmilling.

Western Australia has had considerable success in industrial development which stimulated market demand and enabled the timber industry to maintain its productive capacity to meet demand and to provide continuity of employment for its skilled and experienced operators.

The timber industry provides considerable revenue to the W.A. Forests Department ($4.37 million in 1975/76), the W.A. Government Railways ($3.18 million in 1975/76), and other Government instrumentalities.

7. IMPORTS

Hitherto, timber imports into Western Australia have been negligible, and are not generally competitive with local production, e.g. :-

(a) W.A. Hardwoods have been universally employed for structural purposes in Western Australia.

(b) Imported timbers have been used principally for limited purposes such as plywood veneers, joinery, furniture, and cabinet-making.

In recent years, railway sleepers have been imported from Malaysian and Philippine sources.

(c) Statistics regarding imports for the year ended 30th June, 1975, are shown in Appendix "F".

Henceforth, the importing scene will change as a consequence of the reducing availability of W.A. Hardwoods, and until such time as a sufficiency of local Softwoods is achieved.

The Association is not in a position to offer comment on factors associated with total Australian demand, except to state that present rates of duty are not a significant factor in current W.A. imported timbers selling prices (i.e. representing only 3% for kiln dried material and 3.5% for mouldings), which are approximately comparable with seasoned Jarrah prices.

8. EMPLOYMENT

It is estimated that the Industry provides direct and indirect employment for up to 7,000 persons, of whom some 3,500 are employed in sawmilling or in the felling and hauling of logs to mills; maintenance work in connection with sawmill plant and buildings, logging and hauling equipment; the remainder being Forests Department officers, case and box mill, plywood and particleboard mill, and joinery works employees.

As a consequence of the phased reduction in Hardwood intake, it will be necessary to transfer part of the workforce to remanufacturing activities and into the developing Pine processing industry which will be established in the south-west of the State.

CONCLUSIONS:

TARIFFS

The Australian native timber industry has been examined on a number of occasions since 1946, culminating in the Report of the Economic Study Group in 1972.

The Tariff Board in 1963 examined a number of ways of according assistance to the native timber industry, including recognition that the supply of local Hardwood must be supplemented by (at that time) Softwoods imports.

The major difficulty in the implementation of any system of assistance is that it has a blanket effect at all points of entry of timber imported into Australia, whereas distress areas of local production and marketing are localised, requiring special attention.

Western Australia, because of force of circumstances arising from a reducing Hardwood intake and a likely market requirement of sizes and sections in volumes not able to be supplied from local Hardwood and Softwood sources, must look to overseas sources to satisfy the demands of the building and construction industries. The alternative being that these markets would become lost to substitute materials.

The Association therefore urges the Commission to recommend maintenance of the present levels of duties.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The Association supports the policy of the W.A. Forests Department of self-sufficiency in saw-log material through Pine plantation expansion.

The Association also sees a need for maximum effort to maintain and expand the Hardwood resource.

It is recognised that the achievement of these targets will depend on the availability of finance. This form of long term assistance to the Industry must ultimately benefit the Australian community of the future.

TAX CONCESSIONS

The Australian Timber Producers Council is arguing the case for the elimination of Sales Tax on logging vehicles. The Sawmilling Industry is decentralised, is highly labour intensive, and is not directly subsidised, and yet it attracts very little support by way of tax incentives and/or concessions.

The National case will present detailed submissions in this special area, and is supported by this Association.

GENERAL

The Association considers that the W.A. Timber Industry is an efficient industry, and that the most effective protection that can be given is a stimulation of market demand through Federal Government action in the maintaining of a viable, economic and stable building and construction industry.

APPENDIX "A"

FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

W.A. TIMBER DIVISION

Member Organisations :-

Associated Sawmillers and Timber Merchants of W.A.

- W.A. Hardwood Producers.
- " Merchants.

Interstate Jarrah Export Association

W.A. Hardwood Export Association

W.A. Sleeper Export Association

- W.A. Hardwood Exporters.

W.A. Pine Committee - Pine Timber Products Distribution.

....

APPENDIX "B"

FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

OTHER DIVISIONS

Woodchip Division - Export of Woodchips.

Imported Timbers Division - Importing and Marketing of Imported Timbers.

Wood Based Panels Division

Plywood Distributors Association of W.A. - Plywood distribution.

....

(1)

I. PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION OF W.A. HARDWOODS

(a) DIVISION OF TOTAL SAWN PRODUCTION (m^3)

	Sawn Timber (other than Sleepers)	%	Sawn Sleepers	%	Total
1971/72	309 231	80	69 775	20	379 006
1972/73	313 346	84	61 789	16	375 135
1973/74	321 432	86	53 467	14	374 899
1974/75	299 756	81	69 088	19	368 844
1975/76	306 669	80	76 341	20	383 010

(b) DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL SAWN PRODUCTION (m^3)

	Exported Interstate	%	Exported Overseas	%	Retained in W.A.	%	To
1971/72	54 177	14	47 014	12	277 815	74	379
1972/73	53 840	14	40 952	11	280 343	75	375
1973/74	63 390	17	34 810	9	276 699	74	374
1974/75	44 773	12	46 836	13	277 235	75	368
1975/76	47 403	13	46 733	12	288 874	75	383

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF SAWN PRODUCTION (m^3)
(other than Sleepers)

	Exported Interstate	%	Exported Overseas	%	Retained in W.A.	%	Total
1971/72	42 386	14	9 959	3	256 886	83	309 231
1972/73	46 527	15	10 596	3	256 223	82	313 346
1973/74	59 378	19	20 989	6	241 065	75	321 432
1974/75	38 940	13	8 833	3	251 983	84	299 756
1975/76	41 619	13	3 239	2	261 811	85	306 669

(d) DISTRIBUTION OF SLEEPER PRODUCTION (m^3)

	Exported Interstate	%	Exported Overseas	%	Retained in W.A.	%	Total
1971/72	9 440	13	37 052	49	23 283	38	69 775
1972/73	7 313	12	30 356	49	24 120	39	61 789
1973/74	4 012	7	13 821	26	35 634	67	53 467
1974/75	5 833	8	38 003	55	25 252	37	69 088
1975/76	5 784	8	43 494	57	27 063	35	76 341

II. TOTAL SAWN PRODUCTION - HARDWOODS AND SOFTWOODS (m^3)

	Hardwoods	%	Softwoods	%	Total
1971/72	379 006	94	22 733	6	400 739
1972/73	375 135	94	23 283	6	398 418
1973/74	374 899	93	26 534	7	401 433
1974/75	368 844	93	27 086	7	395 930
1975/76	383 010	96	16 258	4	399 268

(Source: AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS, AUSTRALIAN TIMBER SUPPLY REVIEW, AND W.A. FORESTS DEPARTMENT)

HOME BUILDING IN W.A.

(a) DWELLINGS - COMMENCEMENTS

	New Houses	%	Other	%	Total Dwellin
1971/72	12 490	90	1 340	10	13 830
1972/73	15 858	93	1 236	7	17 094
1973/74	12 843	80	3 214	20	16 057
1974/75	9 706	80	2 316	20	12 022
1975/76	14 462	74	5 108	26	19 570

(b) HOUSES - COMPLETIONS (by material of outer walls)

	Brick Stone Cement	%	Brick Veneer	%	Fibro-Cement + Timber & Other.	%	Total Houses Built
1971/72	8 692	66	3 129	24	1 388	10	13 209
1972/73	10 287	75	2 093	15	1 281	10	13 661
1973/74	9 596	77	1 604	13	1 317	10	12 517
1974/75	8 135	74	1 511	14	1 307	12	10 953
1975/76	9 286	77	1 312	11	1 482	12	12 080

(Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Exports from Western Australia of Timber, Tanning Substances and Essential Oils for the Year ended June 30, 1975

	Item and Destination	Quantity	Value
		m³	$
1	Sawlogs and veneer logs, in the rough or roughly squared-conifer ...	....	....
2	Sawlogs and veneer logs, in the rough or roughly squared, non-conifer (including poles, piling, posts and other wood in the rough)—		
	Interstate—		
	Victoria	1 589	101 469
	South Australia	168	9 963
	Total	1 757	111 432
	Overseas—		
	Malaysia	....	50
	Total		50
3	Sleepers—		
	Interstate—		
	South Australia	5 833	544 592
	Total	5 833	544 592
	Overseas—		
	Hong Kong	1 881	163 987
	Israel	3 088	242 012
	Jordan	8 605	786 653
	New Zealand	9	1 104
	South Africa, Republic of	15	1 461
	United Kingdom	24 477	2 305 239
	U.S.A.	1	200
	Zambia	45	5 857
	Total	38 121	3 506 513
	Timber sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled but not further prepared, of a thickness exceeding 5 mm—Non-conifer.		
4	Jarrah (a)—		
	Interstate—		
	New South Wales	211	20 288
	Victoria	5 339	385 876
	South Australia	11 785	1 012 493
	Northern Territory	917	64 042
	Total	18 252	1 482 699
	Overseas—		
	Bahrain	79	11 326
	Christmas Island	1	122
	Greece	95	15 881
	Iran	345	56 976
	Italy	32	6 257
	Japan	21	3 478
	Mauritius	50	6 279
	New Zealand	558	52 528
	South Africa, Republic of	124	16 023
	United Kingdom	1 206	159 286
	U.S.A.	173	16 193
	Total	2 684	344 349
5	Karri (a)—		
	Interstate—		
	New South Wales	6 416	486 726
	Victoria	743	62 977
	South Australia	14 003	1 122 792
	Northern Territory	1 316	85 194
	Total	22 478	1 757 689
	Overseas—		
	Canada	32	4 955
	Germany, Fed. Rep. of	641	73 971
	Italy	16	2 671
	New Zealand	2 125	190 752
	South Africa, Republic of	1 412	149 389
	United Kingdom	351	48 347
	U.S.A.	700	117 114
	Total	5 277	587 199
6	Other (b)—		
	Interstate—		
	Northern Territory	33	5 890
	Total	33	5 890
	Overseas—		
	Bahrain	13	2 380
	Libyan Arab Republic	130	28 795
	South Africa, Republic of	16	2 974
	Total	159	34 149
	Timber (including blocks, strips and friezes for parquet or wood block flooring, not assembled), planed, tongued, grooved, rebated, chamfered, V-jointed, beaded, centre beaded, or the like, but not further manufactured—		
7	Flooring—		
	Interstate—		
	New South Wales	2 204	260 970
	Victoria	1 156	145 750
	South Australia	755	61 850
	Northern Territory	704	95 382
	Total	4 819	563 952
	Overseas—		
	Christmas Island	6	1 532
	U.S.A.	13	1 587
	Total	19	3 119
8	Other (c)—		
	Interstate—		
	Northern Territory	9	1 013
	Total	9	1 013
	Overseas—		
	Greece	60	7 199
	Italy	113	20 263
	Libyan Arab Republic	319	78 045
	United Kingdom	49	6 641
	U.S.A.	145	25 298
	Total	686	137 446
	Total Timber Item 1-8	100 127	9 080 092
9	Wood, sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, but not further prepared, veneer sheets and sheets for plywood, of a thickness not exceeding 5 mm—plywood, blockboard, laminboard and the like; inlaid wood, cellular wood panels, whether or not faced with base metal	(f)	(f)
10	Reconstituted wood (also known as particle board, chip board, sliver board, shaving board, flake board, residue board and wood waste board)	(f)	(f)
11	Casks, vats, barrels, etc., Empty (g)—		
	Overseas—		
	United Kingdom	....	5 544
	Total	....	5 544
12	Manufacturers of wood (except furniture), N.E.I. (h) (i)—		
	Interstate—		
	New South Wales	....	955
	Victoria	....	76 599
	Queensland	....	22 573
	South Australia	....	83
	Northern Territory	....	1 714
	Total		101 924
	Overseas—		
	Bahrain		332
	Christmas Island	....	1 947
	Japan	....	25
	Kuwait		22 013
	Singapore		468
	U.S.A.		25
	Total	....	24 810

Exports from Western Australia of Timber, Tanning Substances and Essential Oils for the Year ended June 30, 1975

	Item and Destination	Quantity	Value
		m^3	$
13	Tanning Substances of Natural Origin	N.R.S.	N.R.S.
		kg	$
14	Essential Oils; concretes and absolutes; resinoids—		
	Interstate—		
	New South Wales	7 781	72 354
	Victoria	10 746	134 931
	South Australia	2 691	40 097
	Total	21 218	247 382

Item and Destination	Quantity	Value
	m^3	$
Overseas—		
Belgium-Luxembourg	100	870
France	102	9 686
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	2 625	11 212
Hong Kong	61	1 820
Italy	2 000	43 780
Netherlands	6 650	28 864
Singapore	4 088	11 480
Switzerland	525	2 320
United Kingdom	14 738	76 300
U.S.A.	10 860	45 305
Total	41 749	231 637
Total value of exports on this return	....	9 691 389

(*a*) Excludes timber cut to size for making boxes or staves (Included in Item 6).
(*b*) See Footnote (*a*).
(*c*) Relates to interstate exports of non-conifer flooring only. Overseas exports of conifer flooring included in Item 8.
(*d*) Relates to overseas exports of conifer flooring only. Overseas exports of non-conifer flooring included in Item 8.
(*e*) See Footnotes (*c*) and (*d*). Item also includes conifer timber, sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, but not further prepared of a thickness exceeding 5 mm.
(*f*) Details not available for publication.
(*g*) Interstate exports included in Item 12.
(*h*) Includes cork manufacturers.
(*i*) Some details not available for publication.

"N.E.I." means "not elsewhere included".
"N.R.S." means "not recorded separately".
Basis of Value—F.O.B. at point of final shipment.
(Information supplied by the Australian Burea of Statistics)

(Source: W.A. FORESTS DEPARTMENT - ANNUAL REPORT 1976)

Imports *into Western Australia of Timber, Timber Products, Tanning Substances and Essential Oils for the Year ended June* 30, 1975

	Item and Origin	Quantity	Value
		m^3	$
1	Sawlogs and veneer logs, in the rough or roughly squared, non-conifer, (including poles, piling, posts and other wood in the rough) (*a*)—		
	Overseas	(*b*)	(*b*)
2	Railway Sleepers—		
	Interstate—		
	Queensland	16	1 936
	Total	16	1 936
	Overseas—		
	Malaysia	11 230	1 621 785
	Singapore	1 701	240 798
	Total	12 931	1 862 583
	Timber, sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled but not further prepared, of a thickness exceeding 5 mm—Conifer (*c*)—		
3	Douglas Fir (*d*)—		
	Overseas—		
	New Zealand	28	1 992
	U.S.A.	1 007	135 503
	Total	1 035	137 495
4	Other—		
	Interstate (*e*)—		
	New South Wales	184	11 112
	Victoria	79	4 905
	South Australia	80	6 278
	Total	343	22 295
	Overseas—		
	Germany, Fed. Rep. of		16
	Malaysia	15	2 506
	U.S.A.	210	42 141
	Total	225	44 663
	Timber sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, but not further prepared, of a thickness exceeding 5 mm—Non-Conifer (*c*)—		
5	Meranti (*f*)—		
	Overseas—		
	Malaysia	1 970	141 116
	Singapore	45	5 448
	Total	2 015	146 564
6	Ramin (*f*)—		
	Overseas—		
	Indonesia	1 245	75 367
	Malaysia	1 929	156 151
	Singapore	30	2 542
	Total	3 204	234 060
7	Teak (*f*)—		
	Overseas—		
	Thailand	357	117 768
	Total	357	117 768
8	Kapur (*f*)—		
	Overseas—		
	Indonesia	82	3 529
	Malaysia	1 427	119 361
	Singapore	66	5 537
	Total	1 575	128 427
9	Other (*g*)—		
	Interstate—		
	New South Wales	3	261
	South Australia	22	4 308
	Tasmania	109	15 899
	Total	134	20 468
	Overseas—		
	Germany, Fed. Rep. of		114
	Malaysia	8 310	782 447
	Singapore	167	14 081
	United Kingdom	2	588
	Total	8 479	797 230
10	Shooks and staves, sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, but not further prepared of a thickness exceeding 5 mm (*h*)—		
	Overseas		
		m^3	$
11	Wooden beadings and mouldings (including moulded skirting and other moulded boards) (*i*)—		
	Overseas—		
	Austria	....	959
	Belgium-Luxembourg	....	9 812
	Germany, Fed. Rep. of	....	5 387
	Italy	....	163
	Malaysia	....	7 090
	Netherlands	....	547
	Norway	....	479
	Singapore	....	367
	Spain	....	144
	Taiwan	....	382
	Thailand		252
	United Kingdom		29 510
	U.S.A.		270
	Total	....	55 362
	Timber (including blocks, strips and friezes for parquet or wood block flooring, not assembled), planed, tongued, grooved, rebated, chamfered, V-jointed, beaded, centre-beaded or the like, but not further manufactured—		
12	Flooring (*j*)		
13	Other—		
	Interstate (*k*)—		
	South Australia	19	4 056
	Total	19	4 056
	Overseas—		
	Germany, Fed. Rep. of	1	1 086
	Malaysia	612	92 731
	New Zealand	11	3 623
	Singapore	76	8 014
	Total	700	105 454
	Total Timber Item 2-13	....	3 678 361
14	Wood, sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled but not further prepared, veneer sheets and sheets for plywood, of a thickness not exceeding 5 mm, plywood, blockboard, laminboard, and the like; inlaid wood, cellular wood panels, whether or not faced with base metal—		
	Interstate—	m^2	
	New South Wales	115 322	206 479
	Victoria	30 507	86 111
	Queensland	192 886	511 027
	South Australia	9 848	21 741
	Total	348 563	825 358
	Overseas (*l*)—		
	Germany, Fed. Rep. of		12
	Japan	5 851	2 976
	Korea, Republic of	32 676	6 009
	Papua New Guinea	47 062	6 446
	Philippines	78 774	16 892
	Singapore	2 871 696	297 570
	Taiwan	4 228 415	751 680
	U.S.A.	32 137	10 557
	Malaysia	749 412	126 112
	Total	8 046 023	1 218 255
15	Reconstituted wood (also known as particle board, chip board, sliver board, shaving board, flake board, residue board and wood waste board)—		
	Interstate (Separate State details not available for publication)		
	Total	787 055	2 165 621
	Overseas—		
	Finland	172	11 424
	South Africa, Republic of	342	23 037
	Sweden	366	24 894
	U.S.A.	46	2 391
	Total	926	61 746
	Total Timber Items 14, 15		4 270 980
	Total Timber Items 2-15		7 949 341
16	Match splints (*i*)—		
	Overseas—		
	Finland		116 467
	Total		116 467

Imports *into Western Australia of Timber, Timber Products, Tanning Substances and Essential Oils for the Year ended June* 30, 1975

	Item and Origin	Quantity	Value
		m^3	$
17	Rulers, wooden (*a*)—		
	Overseas—	Number	
	China, People's Republic of	300	118
	Germany Fed. Rep. of	25	10
	Japan	12	11
	Netherlands	2 304	977
	United Kingdom	11 355	17 378
	Total	13 996	18 494
18	Table Mats, Wooden	N.R.S.	N.R.S.
19	Wood Flour (*m*)—		
	Overseas		
20	Clothes Pegs, Wooden	N.R.S.	N.R.S.
21	Tool handles, wooden—		
	Interstate (*n*)—		
	New South Wales		243
	Victoria		348
	Queensland		109 822
	South Australia		118
	Tasmania		240
	Total		110 771
		Dozen	
	Overseas—		
	Germany, Fed. Rep. of	9	95
	Japan	37	278
	Switzerland	3	4
	United Kingdom	8	21
	U.S.A.	123	1 151
	Total	180	1 549
22	Doors not incorporating locks, hinges or similar fittings—	Number	
	Interstate—		
	New South Wales	39 722	520 299
	South Australia	23 543	297 491
	Total	63 265	817 790
	Overseas—		
	Malaysia	2	19
	Singapore	500	12 638
	South Africa, Republic of	109	8 140
	Taiwan	16 650	70 336
	Total	17 261	91 133
23	Manufacturers of wood (Except furniture, N.E.I.) (*o*)—		
	Interstate—		
	New South Wales		257 952
	Victoria		670 695
	Queensland		22 158
	South Australia		152 372
	Tasmania		115 276
	Total		1 218 453
	Overseas—		
	Australia (Re-imported)		4
	Austria		69
	Belgium-Luxembourg		8 494
	Canada		19 159
	China, People's Republic of		2 880
	Czechoslovakia		901
	Denmark		13 347
	Finland		1 059
	France		62
	Germany, Fed. Rep. of		24 221
	Hong Kong		9 560
	India		6 905
	Indonesia		1 853
	Italy		9 217
	Japan		45 679
	Korea, Republic of		453
	Malagasy, Republic of		10
	Malaysia		26 954
	Netherlands		5 875
	New Zealand		4 711
	Norway		3 370
	Pakistan, Islamic Rep. of		108
	Philippines		97 187
	Singapore		32 932
	South Africa, Republic of		2 957
	Spain		17 410
		m^3	$
	Sri Lanka	....	4 490
	Sweden	....	63 714
	Switzerland	....	155
	Taiwan	....	125 854
	Thailand	....	67 783
	United Kingdom	....	46 747
	U.S.A.	....	60 017
	Origin Unknown	....	12
	Total	....	704 149
24	Furniture, wood or wood framed (*p*)—	Number	
	Interstate—		
	New South Wales	....	312 485
	Victoria		856 370
	Queensland	....	436
	South Australia	....	764 409
	Tasmania	....	913
	Total	....	1 934 613
	Overseas—		
	Belgium-Luxembourg	....	1 848
	Canada	....	1 398
	China, People's Republic of	....	15 878
	Denmark		30 291
	Finland		10 196
	France		279
	German Democratic Rep.		4
	Germany, Fed. Rep. of		4 515
	Hong Kong		33 918
	India		9 609
	Indonesia		4 651
	Italy		34 710
	Japan	....	20 018
	Korea, Republic of	....	1 153
	Malaysia		115 097
	Mexico	....	35
	Netherlands		5 458
	New Zealand		1 068
	Norway		20 474
	Pakistan, Islamic Rep. of		179
	Philippines		10 619
	Rumania		131
	Singapore		131 761
	Spain		30 486
	Sri Lanka		1 526
	Sweden		17 803
	Switzerland		50
	Taiwan		289 178
	Thailand		3 691
	Turkey		49
	United Kingdom		253 383
	U.S.A.		27 747
	Yugoslavia		13 698
	Zambia		90
	Total		1 090 991
	Tanning Extracts of Vegetable Origin		
25	Wattle Bark Extracts (*q*)—	kg	
	Overseas—		
	South Africa, Republic of	661 875	192 178
	Total	661 875	192 178
26	Other (*q*)—		
	Overseas—		
	France	55 000	13 729
	United Kingdom	1 250	871
	Total	56 250	14 600
27	Synthetic tanning substances, artificial bates for pre-tanning tanning (Tannic acids) and their salts, esters and other derivatives—		
	Interstate—		
	New South Wales	57 095	78 310
	Victoria	70 538	50 052
	Queensland	8 881	4 605
	South Australia	418	536
	Total	136 932	133 503
	Overseas—		
	Belgium-Luxembourg	6 000	23 811
	France	4 000	14 962
	Germany, Fed. Rep. of	58 180	12 712
	Italy	200	62
	Japan	1 000	5 886
	United Kingdom	19 700	68 170
	Total	89 080	125 603

Imports *into Western Australia of Timber, Timber Products, Tanning Substances and Essential Oils for the Year ended June* 30, 1975

Item and Origin	Quantity	Value
	m^3	$
28 Essential oils; concretes and absolutes; resinoids -		
Interstate -		
New South Wales	44	267
Victoria	2 200	12 238
South Australia	1	14
Total	2 245	12 519
Overseas -		
India	14	107
Indonesia	9 840	48 664
South Africa Republic of	9 250	58 996
Swaziland	95 834	426 203
Taiwan	2 723	24 009
U.S.A.	2 540	71 361
Total	120 201	629 340
Total Value of imports on this return		15 161 494

(*a*) Interstate imports are not recorded separately.
(*b*) Not available for publication.
(*c*) Overseas imports exclude shooks and staves—see Item 10.
(*d*) Interstate imports included in Item 4.
(*e*) See Footnote (*d*). Item also includes imports of conifer timber, planed, tongued, grooved, or the like.
(*f*) Interstate imports included in Item 9.
(*g*) See Footnote (*f*).
(*h*) Interstate imports included in Item 4 (Conifer) and Item 9. (Non-Conifer).
(*i*) Interstate imports included in Item 23.
(*j*) Figures relate to overseas imports of conifer flooring only, interstate imports of flooring included in Item 4 (Conifer) and Item 13 (Non-Conifer).
(*k*) Relates to Non-Conifer timber only. All conifer timber, planed, tongued, grooved, etc., included in Item 4.
(*l*) Excludes wood, sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, but not further prepared, veneer sheets and sheets for plywood, details of which are not available for publication.
(*m*) Interstate imports included in Item 15.
(*n*) Includes brush and broom handles and the like.
(*o*) Includes imports of wooden packing cases, casks, domestic articles of wood, and similar products.
(*p*) Excludes imports, if any, of wooden medical, dental, surgical or veterinary furniture, non-domestic wooden chairs, and wooden legs imported separately as parts.
(*q*) Interstate imports included in Item 27.
(*r*) See Footnote (*q*).

"N.E.I." means "not elsewhere included".
"N.R.S." means "not recorded separately".
Basis of value: Overseas—F.O.B. at the point of final shipment.
Basis of value: Interstate—landed cost in Western Australia.
(Information supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.)

(Source: W.A. FORESTS DEPARTMENT - ANNUAL REPORT 1976)