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# TREE TRUST



*Restoring Nature's Balance*



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A Proposal for a Private Enterprise Funded  
Hardwood Afforestation Programme for  
South-Western Australia

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Nature's Balance*

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# TREE TRUST

We are proud to launch Tree Trust, the largest natural resource project ever undertaken in Australia.

Through the planting of more than 100 million trees, this initiative will generate an unprecedented combination of environmental and economic benefits for communities throughout the South-West.

Tree Trust is, without doubt, the largest reforestation program ever initiated in this country. Its principal elements include:

- . planting 105 million trees on cleared farmland;
- . integration of commercial tree crops into existing farming practices;
- . voluntary participation by farmers;
- . production of high quality raw materials to meet the growing world demand for paper;
- . complete reliance on private investment to meet project costs;
- . provision of Government forest management expertise at no cost to taxpayers.

***No part of Western Australia's unique native forests is involved in the Tree Trust.***

The positive outcomes expected of this project invite comparison with the progress made during the days of C Y O'Connor.

The benefits of Tree Trust include:

- . creation of 4 000 new jobs in South-West communities;
- . a new resource for the State's timber industry;
- . rebirth of the water and soil resources of the South-West;
- . a dramatic decline in Western Australia's contribution of carbon dioxide to the "Greenhouse Effect";
- . new opportunities for farmers whose land is affected by pesticide residues, salt, waterlogging or erosion;
- . a lasting impact on algae problems, such as those in the Peel-Harvey estuary system;
- . lower taxes, including annual savings of \$40 million alone, from improved water quality;
- . a reduction of 4 per cent in Australia's trade deficit.





Tree Trust, and the improvements it promises to our quality of life, has only become possible with recognition that the State's most significant environmental problems have resulted from excessive clearing of native vegetation for agriculture in the South-West.

It is not practicable to return this land to its natural state, nor should we blame those who have sought, by using it, to contribute to our prosperity. However, in the Tree Trust, we have an opportunity to overcome some of the errors of the past.

Farmers have been at the forefront of moves to re-establish trees on agricultural land in the last few years. But it is not possible to achieve the degree of reforestation necessary with non commercial tree species. Through a series of experiments, the most effective and commercial tree species have been identified. This combined with the development of a strong demand for high quality wood fibre has made the Tree Trust initiative possible.

The State Government welcomes the co-operation between farmers, timber companies, local communities and the State's forest management professionals in the development and implementation of this historic project.

We commend the Tree Trust to you.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Dowding".

Peter Dowding, LL.B. M.L.A.  
PREMIER OF WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barry Hodge".

Barry Hodge, M.L.A.  
MINISTER FOR  
CONSERVATION AND LAND  
MANAGEMENT



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*The belief that economic development and environmental protection are incompatible is common in our society today. Few will disagree that our environment needs protection; there is also no doubt that Australia must improve its economic performance if we are to maintain our living standards and enjoy the natural environment with which we are blessed. Tree Trust is a project which combines environmental and economic advantages to an unprecedented degree.*

*The objective of Tree Trust is to establish 105 000 ha of Tasmanian Bluegum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) trees in the south-west of Western Australia by the year 2000 using funds raised entirely from the private sector.*









## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Tree Trust project will result in major improvements to soil and water quality and fauna habitat in the south-west of the State. It will also make a significant regional contribution to the reduction of the Greenhouse Effect.

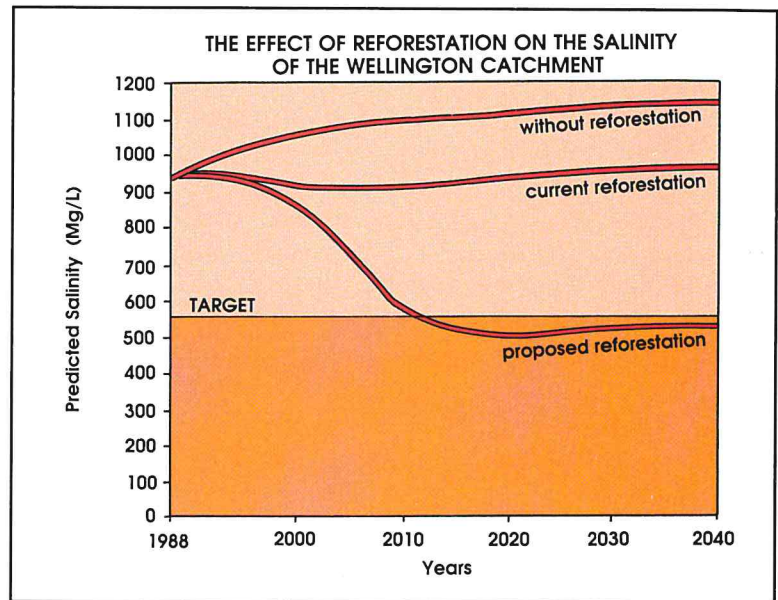


Salt encrusted gum leaf

### Salination

Excessive clearing of native vegetation in the south-west of Western Australia has disrupted the hydrological cycle leading to the release of salt stored in the soil. This has caused 50 per cent of the potential fresh water resource to be made saline and 300 000 ha of agricultural land to be made unproductive.

Extensive research and experimentation has shown that replanting with trees *will* restore the hydrological balance.



## TASMANIAN BLUEGUM

*Tasmanian Bluegum is not a species which grows naturally in Western Australia, but it is recognised around the world as one of the fastest growing high quality wood producing species.*

*In Western Australia, detailed growth analysis of plots established throughout the south-west by Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) research scientists has confirmed that bluegum can grow on a wide range of soil types with a minimum rainfall of 600mm per annum. The growth rates of bluegums in Western Australia, on the best sites, are equal to those recorded anywhere in the world.*

*The Department of CALM has received a 1.1 million dollar contribution from the Federal Government's National Afforestation Program to conduct research to determine if other tree species can also be introduced into the hardwood afforestation program.*



The Tree Trust afforestation project has the potential, in conjunction with other soil conservation measures, to increase the potable (drinkable) water resource of the south-west by 340 million cubic metres per year. The conversion of the Wellington Catchment water resource to fresh water will, alone, save taxpayers \$40 million per year.

### Eutrophication

Phosphorus pollution threatens the long-term viability of every inland waterway and estuary in the south of Western Australia.

The partial replacement of agricultural crops with trees in catchments will result in a



*Algae deposit on the Peel Inlet shoreline*



*Pied Stilt*





*Seams of salt choking trees..*

marked reduction of phosphorus input as a consequence of lower fertiliser use and lowering of the water table.

### Fauna habitat

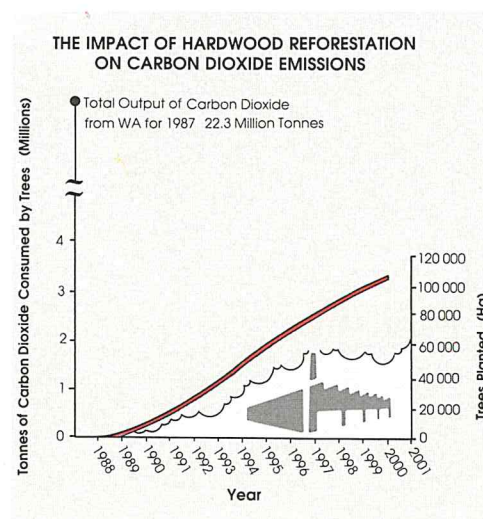
Estuarine and inland waterways provide critical habitat for local fauna and migratory birds. Strategic afforestation will prevent habitat destruction by phosphorus and salt pollution.

### Pesticide soil rehabilitation

Tree crops can provide an interim cash crop to farms currently affected by pesticide residues.

### Greenhouse Effect

105 000 ha of Tasmanian Blue Gum plantations will consume 13 per cent (3.4 million tonnes) of the carbon dioxide currently emitted in Western Australia.







Swamp Hen



## THE ECONOMICS

By the year 2000, the hardwood plantations will generate a gross revenue of \$350 million per annum. Over 4 000 jobs will be created. The future of the State's timber industry will be assured and the project will help reduce Australia's trade deficit by as much as 4 per cent.

There are approximately 1.45 million hectares of cleared agricultural land in south Western Australia which have the potential to grow Tasmanian Blue Gum. On 400 000 ha of this area, Blue Gums could produce returns greater than those of traditional agricultural crops. The Tree Trust proposal will involve planting less than 8 per cent of the total cleared agricultural land.



*Regrowth of Tasmanian bluegum occurs from the stumps avoiding the need to replant*

The land required for the project will be obtained by entering into leases with farmers for two ten-year rotations. The lease arrangements will be based on the "sharefarming" model with which farmers are already familiar through the successful softwood sharefarming scheme introduced by the Government in 1985.

Under the sharefarming scheme trees are planted on cleared farmland in partnership with the farmer, who receives an annual return plus a proportion of the final value of the tree crop once it is harvested.

Farmer participation in the scheme is entirely voluntary. Already farmers have volunteered more than 5 000 ha of land in anticipation of the 1989 planting program.

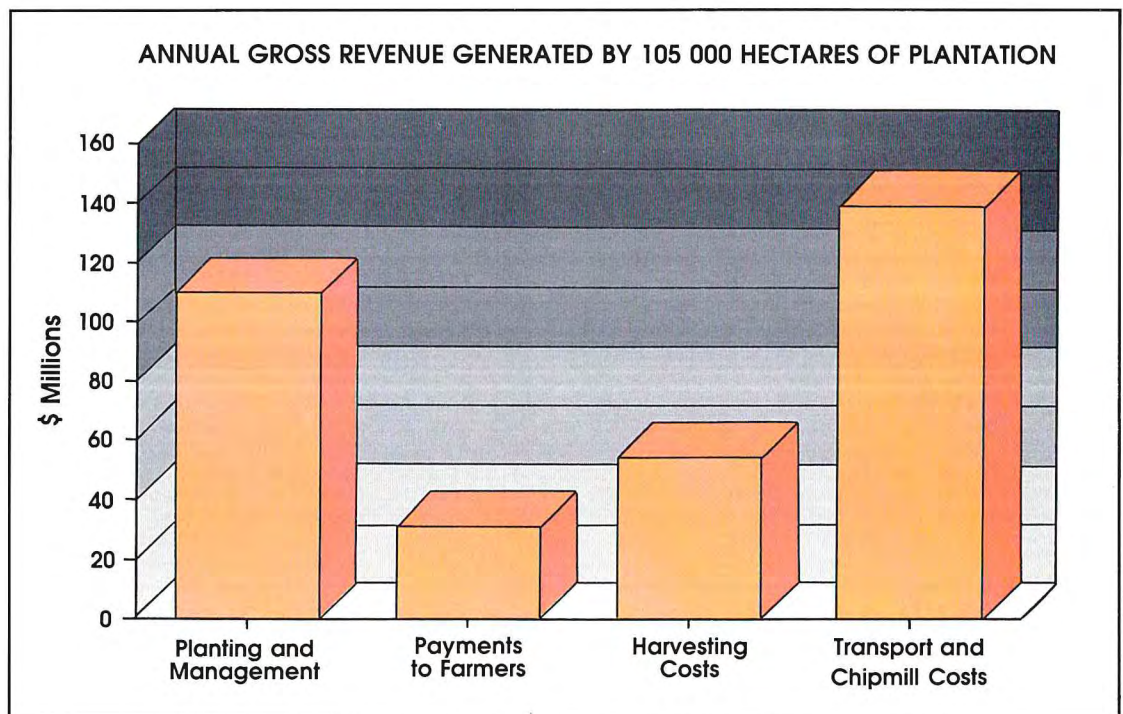
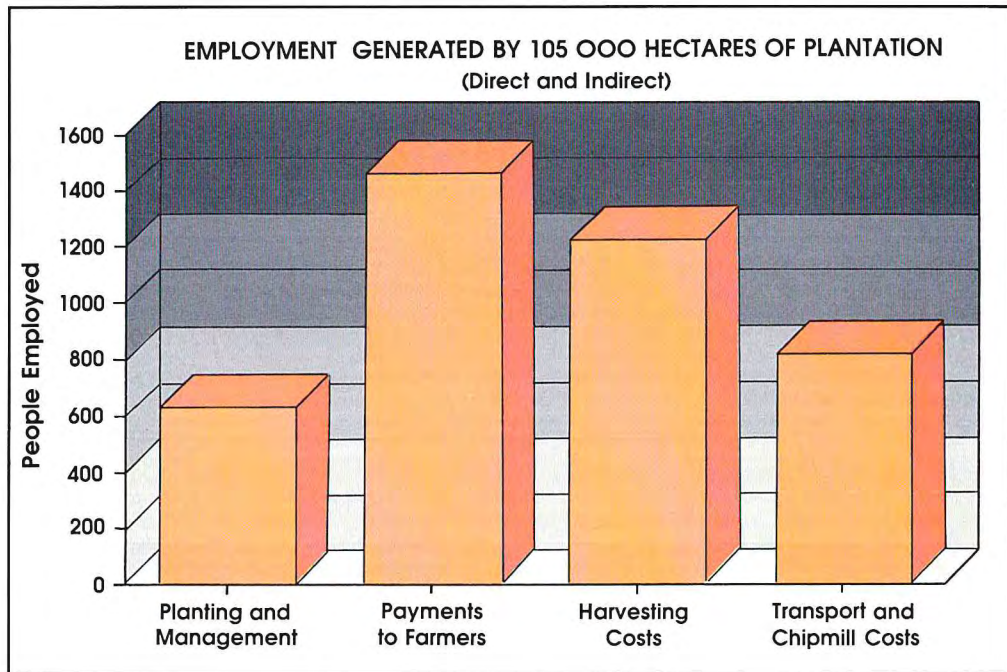
### Commercial Viability

The commercial viability of the project is based on a projected shortfall in the supply of high



*Tasmanian bluegum plantation. The seven year old trees are about 20m tall, 20cm in diameter and 600 stems per hectare in density*





quality short-fibred eucalypt required for the production of high quality paper.

In the Pacific Basin alone it is estimated that the demand for pulp will increase by 300 000 tonnes per year over the next decade. Because of its high quality, a significant proportion of the extra demand will be for eucalypt fibre.

The south-west of Western Australia has been identified by independent experts as the Pacific Basin's most desirable location for the establishment of hardwood plantations for pulpwood. This is because it has the climate, available land, technical infrastructure and political stability needed to establish tree plantations on a secure and widespread basis.



## MANAGEMENT & FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

Tree Trust will be responsible for the management of the project.

Its board will consist of two directors appointed by a timber industry consortium, a representative of CALM and an independent chairman.

The functions of the Tree Trust will be to oversee and coordinate an integrated approach to the establishment of the plantations, oversee the marketing of the produce and maximise the environmental benefit of the plantations to south Western Australia.

The timber industry consortium will provide seed capital for the project and nominate timber industry representatives to the Tree Trust Board.

CALM will establish and manage the plantations under a commercial contract with Tree Trust. No taxpayers funds will be invested in the project.

Opportunities for investment in the Tree Trust will be available to the general public and Australian and overseas companies.

Both small and large investors can therefore participate in Tree Trust, and its benefits will be shared by all Western Australians for generations to come.



*Sir Donald Eckersley examines Bluegum trees which are part of a 127 hectare planting on his farm at Harvey. This year CALM has planted 2 200 hectares of Tasmanian Bluegum plantations in co-operation with farmers.*







