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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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A photograph of two large, vertical tree trunks in a forest. The trunks are reddish-brown with some dark, peeling bark. The background is a dense green forest.

# WHAT FUTURE FOR OUR FORESTS?

*you choose*

**Management Plans are  
being prepared for our  
South-West forests,  
conservation reserves,  
and for future timber  
production.**





Next century's forest. Millions of karri seedlings are grown at Manjimup each year (top left).

The endless rebirth. Yesterday's fallen giant makes way for the next generation (left).

Timber is the life-blood of many small south-west towns (above).



# WANTED — YOUR VIEW

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) needs your views on the management of W.A.'s south-west forests and public land.

Three draft management plans and a draft timber strategy for the forests of the South-West have been produced by CALM on behalf of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and the Lands and Forests Commission. They will ensure the forests' future, as well as that of the many people and towns who depend on the forests for their livelihood.

If accepted by you and the Government, these plans will be blueprints for what happens in the forests of the South-West during the next 10 years.

The management plans contain a new system of classification for public lands, proposals for increased security of tenure and purpose and new areas to become national parks and nature reserves. The timber strategy sets out what areas will be used for timber production, and how much timber will be taken from the forests during the next 10 years.

Read the plans, giving some thought to the needs of the forest, your needs, the needs of the community. And then give us your

suggestions on the future management of this very important resource. Your ideas, along with everyone else's, will be taken into account while drawing up the final management plans.

## Why?

The forests of the South-West provide for recreation, conservation, water protection and timber production. The South-West of the State is also the most densely populated, with increasing population pressures in the future.

Two million hectares of the South-West of W.A. is public land managed on your behalf by CALM.

Under its Act, CALM produces plans for land and water that it manages. The Government and the Department are committed to the principle that the forests of W.A. are managed on behalf of the public.

The proposals in the plans are an attempt to find a balance between conflicting uses while at the same time managing the land for future generations.



Johnsonia lupulina



Comersperma veraetum



Banksia baxteri



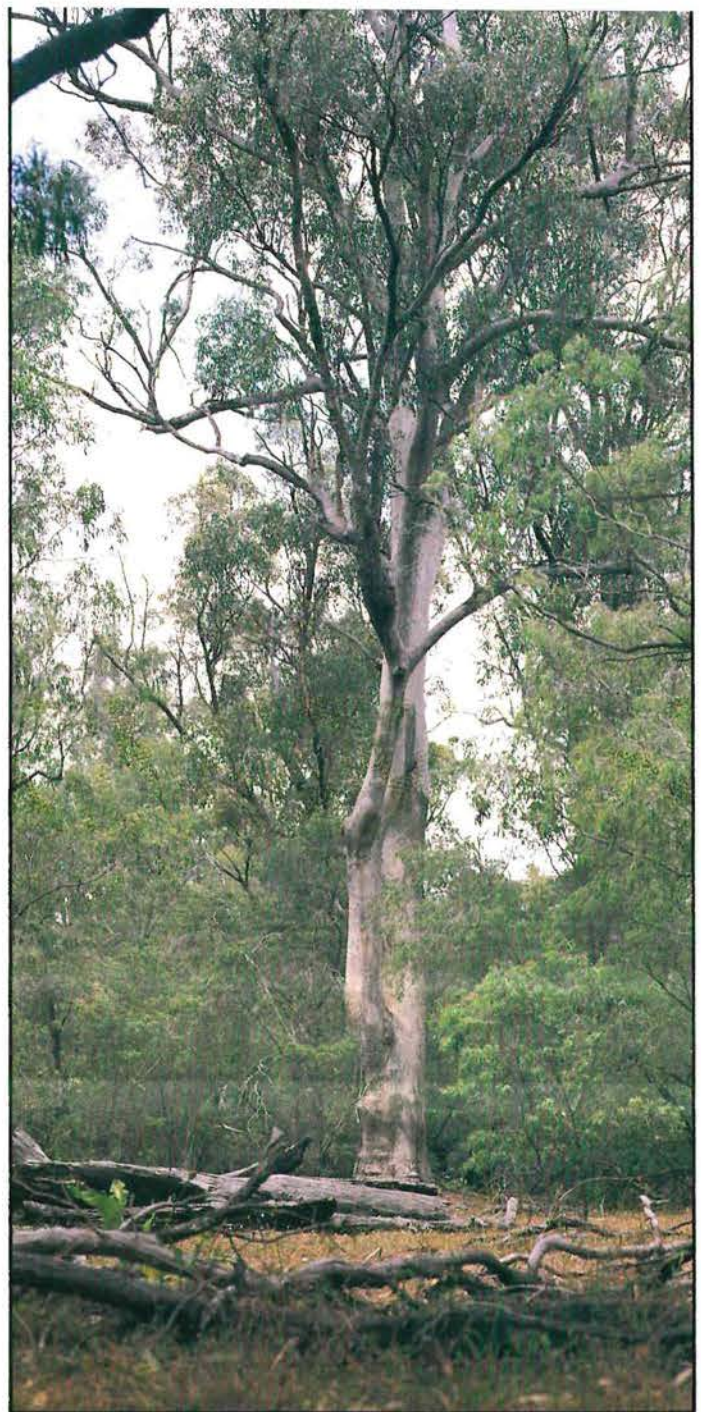
Melaleuca flowers



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

### State Forest:

Its purpose is mainly for the production of water and timber and the protection of water catchments in the South-West of WA. It will continue to be managed for wildlife conservation, recreation, public utilities and mining where appropriate. Tenure and purpose is A Class; vested in the Lands and Forests Commission.



The only tuart forest in the world. Ludlow, near Busselton will become a national park (top).

The Shannon Basin: a major commitment to conservation in the South-West, will be added to the D'Entrecasteaux National Park (right).

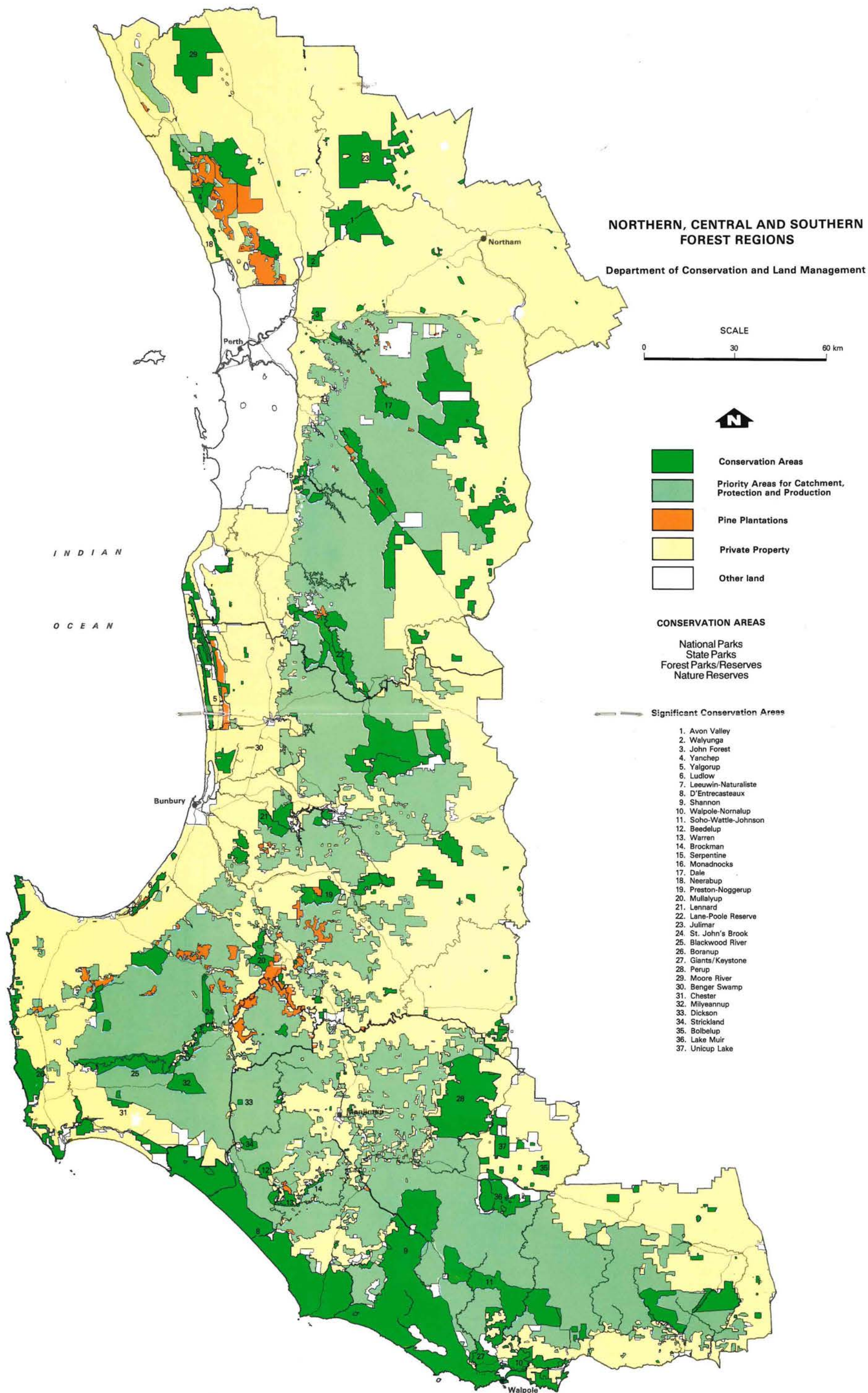
W.A.'s stunning karri forest. An asset for you, and your grandchildren (far right).









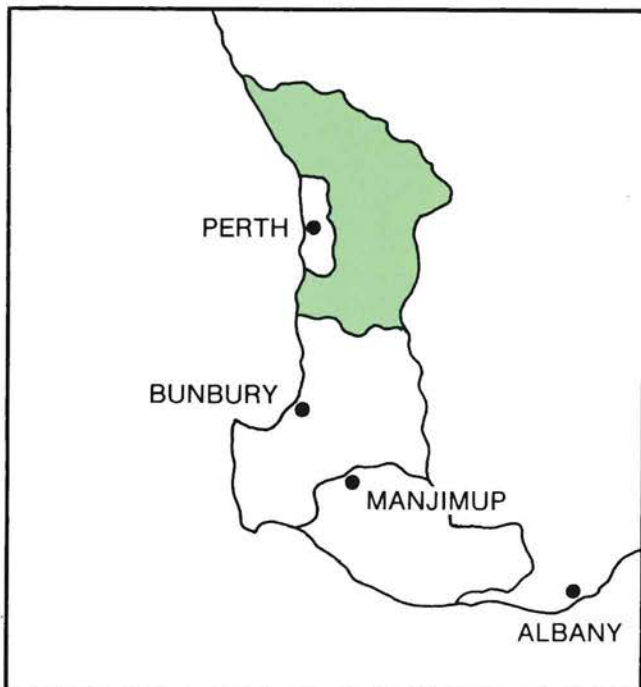




# THE MANAGEMENT PLANS

## WHAT THEY SAY

If, after public review, the proposals in the draft management plans and timber strategy are accepted, 520 000 ha could be added to parks and reserves for conservation and recreation with security of both tenure and purpose. That is a 300 per cent increase in the parks and reserves in the South-West. At the same time it is proposed that the State forests managed for timber production and catchment protection will be given similar security of tenure and purpose.



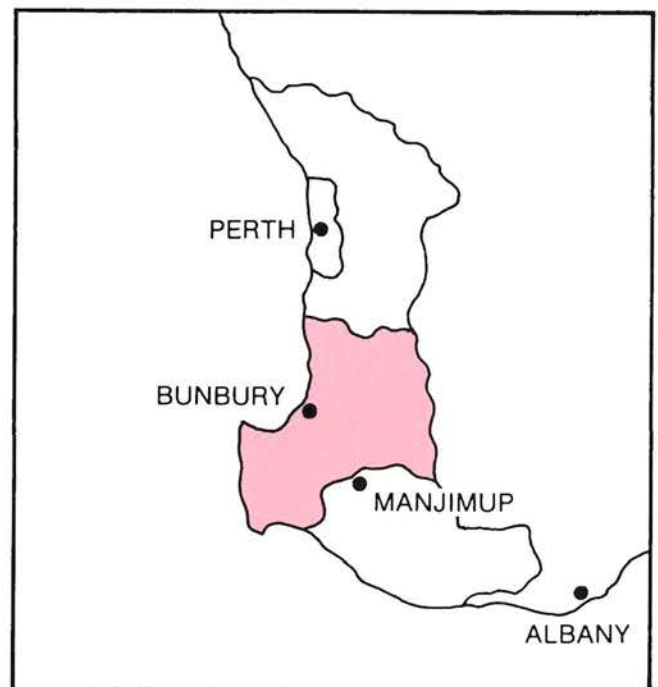
### Northern Forest Region

Under the plans it is proposed that Yanchep National Park will be enlarged 50 per cent by the addition of adjacent State forest.

Avon Valley National Park near Toodyay, with its spectacular wild river rapids, will be enlarged to almost three times its size. An adjacent timber reserve and nature reserve will be added to the Park and zoning will maintain the area's natural values. As Perth grows, this Park will become an increasingly important conservation and recreation asset. The Park may also be linked to Walyunga National Park.

Moore River National Park, about 90 km north of Perth, will be reclassified as a nature reserve and may be extended by the addition of vacant Crown land to the south. The value of the area's wildlife - with its wide range of vegetation, wildflowers, wetlands and animal species - has been recognised and the nature reserve classification is more appropriate.

Three new nature reserves totalling 8 700 ha are also proposed. The Caraban, Wabbling and Melaleuca areas contain a range of important vegetation types, from tuart and banksia to paperbark.



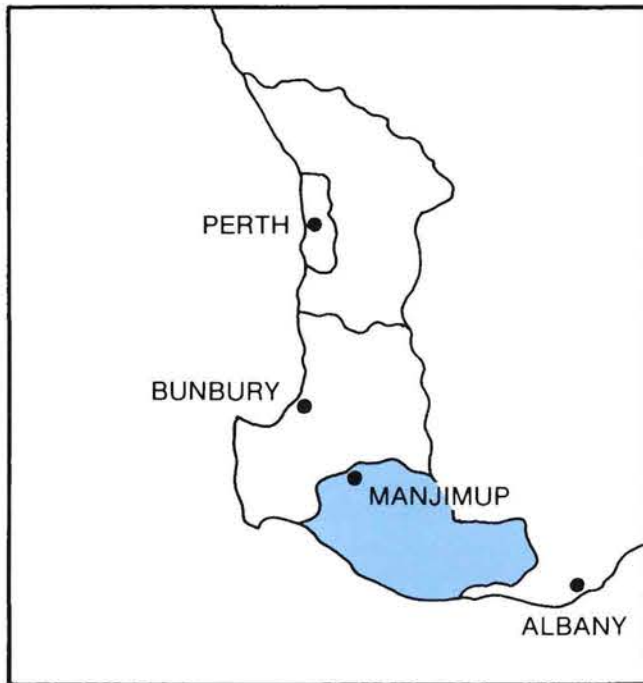
### Central Forest Region

This management plan proposes to increase Yalgorup National Park, on the coastal strip between Mandurah and Bunbury, by over 1000 ha with the addition of the Clifton, McLarty and Myalup State forests.

A highlight of the proposals for this region will be the new Ludlow National Park in the magnificent tuart forest north of Busselton. This stately forest, which requires unique management techniques, will be the first 'pure' tuart forest dedicated as national park in W.A.

A total of 51 400 ha will be designated as new nature reserves and parks in the Central Region's jarrah forest.





## Southern Forest Region

This management plan will create new national parks in the karri forest and extend several existing parks near Pemberton and Manjimup.

A new 29 000 ha national park containing some of the finest virgin karri forest in the State will be created from four forest blocks currently managed with a priority for flora and fauna conservation. These are the Johnston, O'Donnell, Mitchell Crossing, Wattle and Soho forest blocks.

The Shannon Basin (52 000 ha) will be added to D'Entrecasteaux National Park, fulfilling a major Government commitment to reservation of the karri forest.

The Brockman (900ha) and Hawke-Treen (1 600 ha) Management Priority Areas will be added to the existing Beedelup and Warren National Parks respectively.



Dawn at Yanchep. Wildlife, too, needs special consideration.



A bridge between past and present. The Donnelly River near Manjimup passes through virgin karri, farmland, and regrowth, and recreation areas.



# RECREATION

Thousands of families are drawn to the forests of the South-West for swimming, fishing, bushwalking, picnicking and camping.

As many as 300 000 people visit the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park between Busselton and Augusta each year, which benefits tourism in the region by more than \$50 million annually.

There are now more than 350 sites throughout our forests with basic facilities for public use. Under the new management plans, these facilities will be progressively extended and upgraded.

The longest and best known walk trail in W.A., the Bibbulman Track stretching from Perth to Albany, is being further developed to meet the demands of the growing number of users, and camping sites along its route are being developed.

A strip of forest along the Blackwood River will be protected as a forest park. The reclassification will ensure its scenic values for recreation are protected. The area is used extensively by canoeists, bushwalkers and campers.

Lane-Poole Reserve, near Dwellingup, is perhaps the best known of our forest parks. An extensive public participation program was conducted recently to formulate management strategies for this area of over 54 000 ha in the northern jarrah forest.

The Monadnocks, Dale and Serpentine Reserves will provide some of the most magnificent landscapes in the jarrah forest.

A larger Serpentine State Park will be formed by the addition of over 3900 ha to the existing Serpentine National Park, popular for its swimming hole and spectacular waterfall.

If you fish, can I swim?



# CONSERVATION

Julimar, 25 km north-west of Toodyay, will be an important new forest park reserve. A variety of fauna will be protected in the reserve, including the rare Tammar, Brush Wallaby and three species of possum, as well as many birds which are becoming rare in the South-West. These include the Rufous Tree Creeper and the Splendid Wren.

The proposed Perup Forest Park near Manjimup is a fascinating example of people working with nature to maintain a healthy productive ecosystem. Some of our rarest marsupials - the Tammar, Woylie, Numbat - depend on careful management of the Perup for their existence. Other animals will also benefit from this special protection.

## Landscape

Landscape is the conservation, forests and wildlife magazine published quarterly by CALM to keep you informed about W.A.'s environment.

By subscribing to Landscape, you can read about W.A.'s landscape and learn about our natural heritage.

You can also find out how CALM manages these lands for your benefit and the benefit of future generations.

For \$10 annually, you get four issues of Landscape.

## Beating About the Bush

Beating About the Bush is a guide to the national parks and recreation sites that are within a day's drive of Perth.

You can buy a copy of Beating About the Bush at your newsagent or bookstore, or from CALM.

In many areas some of W.A.'s remarkable wildlife has completely disappeared.





# WOOD FROM OUR FORESTS

## The Timber Strategy

For the first time a comprehensive timber strategy has been developed for W.A.'s timber industry. The draft timber strategy plans for an efficient, sustainable timber industry while at the same time ensuring water catchments are protected and conservation and recreation in State forests are enhanced.

This strategy has been prepared at a critical stage of the industry's development. Within the next 30 to 50 years most of the original forest set aside for timber will have been harvested and regenerated. The industry must be restructured to use the regrowth forests that are replacing the original forests. Most sawmills in W.A. need to be remodelled to use new technology, and new processing techniques need to be developed. With these changes, the timber industry can make a major contribution to reducing Australia's trade deficit and providing employment in the rural sector. However, the investment needed for the changes won't be available without a secure resource base for the industry.

## The Right Moves

Already major progress has been made toward using smaller, regrowth logs. In the past 12 months, successful tenders have been called for thinnings from karri regrowth forests that will see the establishment of two major sawmilling complexes for small logs that previously had not been used. These two projects alone will generate \$100 million over the next 10 years in the South-West.

The major principles of the timber strategy are:

- Adequate forest areas are set aside for conservation and recreation, from which logging is excluded.
- Forest areas reserved with a priority for production will also be managed to maximise catchment protection, conservation, and recreation values.
- Every hectare of forest that is logged will be regrown.
- The cost of regrowing, establishing, and managing native forests and exotic plantations will be paid for by the timber industry.

- The yield from timber production will be regulated so it can be sustained indefinitely.
- Logs will be processed to get the best value from each log, so that employment and economic benefits for Western Australians will be maximised.
- All forest management operations will be controlled by CALM.

## The W.A. Timber Industry

The timber industry employs more than 20 000 people directly or indirectly. In a time of high rural unemployment, the industry is a major source of rural jobs. The industry has an annual turnover of \$330 million.

The demand for wood in W.A. will increase. Australia currently imports \$1.2 billion worth of wood products annually, and if we don't produce our own wood, the import bill will grow. The strategy not only proposes that we can produce our own wood, but that we can earn significantly more export income by using more of our hardwoods for high-quality furniture and panel products.

## Putting Back What is Taken Out

Western Australian forests are managed to ensure that the forest timber resource can be sustained indefinitely. Management plans and the timber strategy aim to balance the amount of timber removed from the forest with the amount growing. This is sustained yield.

Put simply, if the quantity of timber removed is less than the annual growth of the forest, sustained yield is achieved. Each year in Western Australia's forest, far less timber is removed than is growing.

Maintaining a sustained yield of timber products also requires that there are sufficient trees of the right size to produce timber. To achieve this the strategy proposes to reduce the quantity of old growth large trees being removed from the forest and to replace them with smaller regrowth and pine. Under this strategy the total quantity of sawn material being produced will remain the same and it will be sustained indefinitely.



# WHERE THE WOOD WILL COME FROM AND HOW MUCH WE CAN PRODUCE

The quantity of old growth karri and jarrah removed from the forests will be reduced. The actual quantity and value of timber available for sawn timber, however, will increase. More hardwood will be used for high-quality products, more timber will be processed from logs by using improved techniques, and more will be available from increasingly productive hardwood regrowth forests and the State's developing pine forests.

If the proposals in the strategy are implemented there will be timber available to supply almost all of W.A.'s wood needs, and to export high-value wood products, to beyond the year 2050.

## Trees and the Fight Against Salinity

Trees are a major weapon in the fight against salinity.

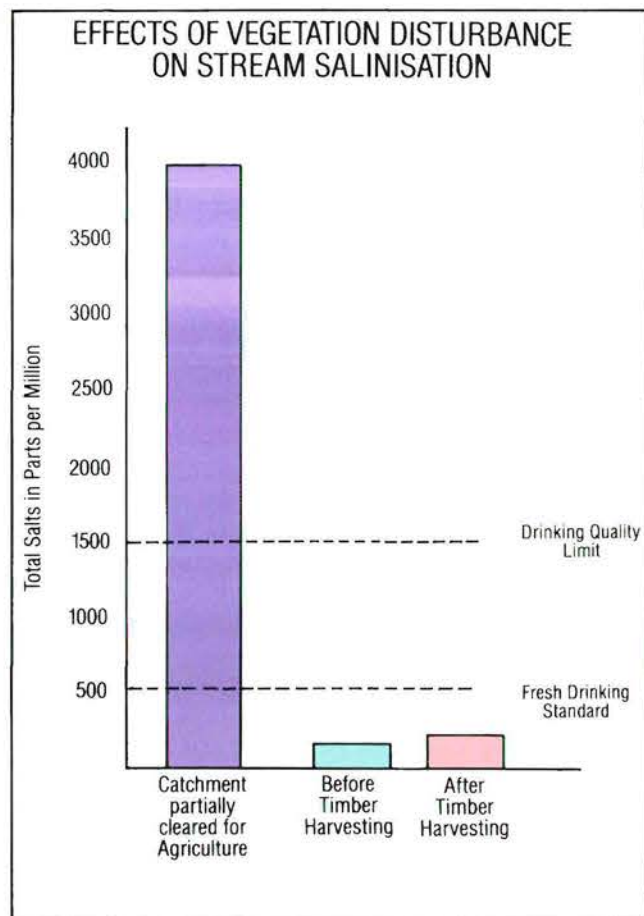
Salt is naturally present in the soils of the South-West, but the clearing of land has upset delicate water balances in some catchments. The result has been a slow release of salts stored in these soils. Detailed studies in the karri forest have shown that timber harvesting followed by regeneration has an insignificant effect on water quality.

When trees are replanted they take up water, lowering the water table to its original level below the saline layers in the soil.

The Wellington Catchment around Collie is a major battleground in the fight against salinity. About 600 000 trees are planted on former farmland every year under a W.A. Water Authority program managed by CALM.

One of the most exciting aspects of the timber strategy is the proposal to extend CALM's softwood sharefarming scheme - a scheme where CALM in partnership with farmers is planting 1 500 hectares of forest this year on farmlands. The proposal, if implemented, will encourage softwood and hardwood tree planting in catchment areas. This will not only generate new income and employment for farmers, but will also help reduce salinity and enhance nature conservation on farmlands.

All logging operations in State forest are strictly controlled by CALM Officers. For example, in the karri forest, planning begins four years before any trees are harvested. Twenty-one different assessments of such factors as fauna and flora habitat, stream and road reserves and fire protection buffers are considered before any operation in the forest commences.





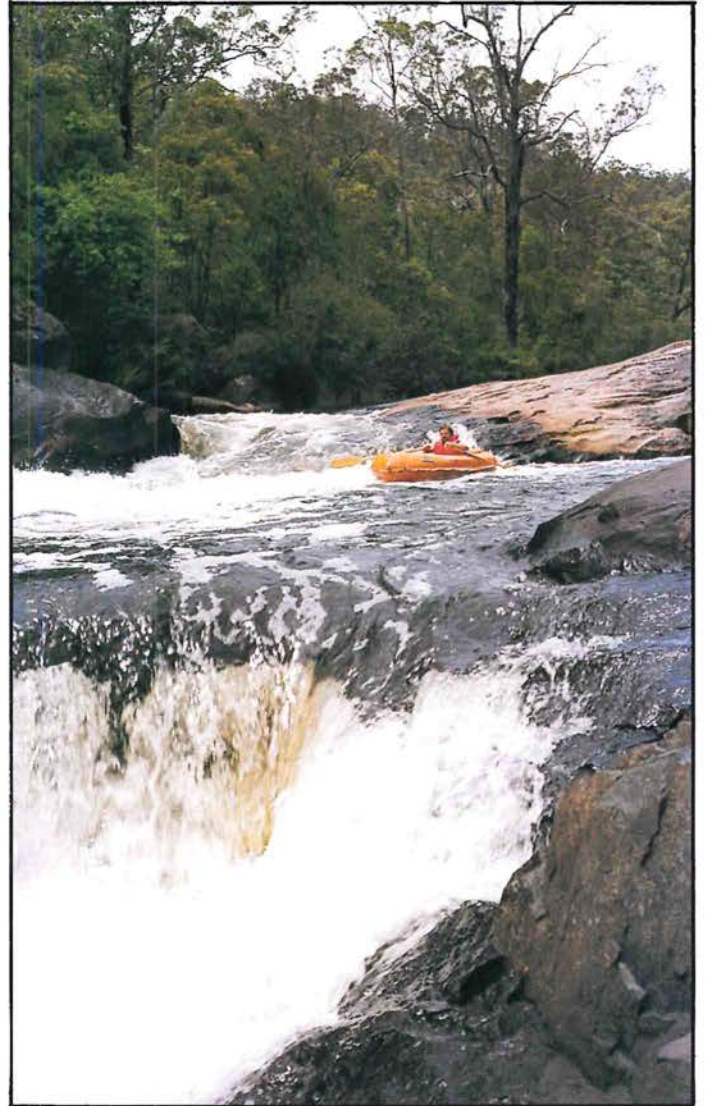
# MULTIPLE USE, OR “IF YOU FISH, CAN I SWIM”?

State forest and timber reserves are used to produce timber, but during the 100-200 years it takes for timber to grow, these forests may be used for many different things.

Multiple use has been a part of W.A.’s forests for many years. Forests can be used for a variety of purposes indefinitely. The forests provide timber, protect water catchments, preserve flora and fauna and provide scenic landscapes and areas for recreation.

A prime example is the Boranup State Forest near Busselton which was clearfelled to provide timber at the turn of the century. Today, Boranup and other karri forests established after timber production are some of the most popular recreational areas in the State.

W.A.’s forests are managed to produce timber. But these areas also make important contributions to conservation and recreation opportunities.



Canoeing is a popular pastime in the rivers of the South-West.

## WHAT ALL THIS MEANS FOR THE FORESTS OF W.A.

If accepted by the Government, these three management plans will, following public input, provide a more sensible system of parks and reserves throughout the South-West. Because there are so many different things people want to use the forests for, and because there are so many people, the issues facing the Department are often controversial. But CALM believes that this conflict can be resolved by ensuring decisions are based on the facts, providing the public with the opportunity to participate and, where value judgements are involved, achieving an optimum balance between conflicting aims.





Nearly 60 years ago this karri forest at Big Brook was clear-felled. Today it is a haven for holiday makers, townspeople, and wildlife alike.