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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Extension and Information

In response to an increasing public awareness of forestry, the Department produces informational, technical and educational publications of worldwide interest to professional persons and organizations, and members of the public.

This pamphlet, intended as a brief summary of the policies and activities of the Forests Department of Western Australia, forms an introduction to the Forestry in Action series. Other subjects which are or will be available in this series are:

- Wood Production
- Water Production
- Honey Production
- Wild Flowers Production
- Flora and Fauna Protection
- Recreation
- Nurseries
- Tree Care
- Forest Rehabilitation
- Scientific Study and Education
- Forest Protection from Fire
- Forest Protection from Disease

Advice and general information is available on the planting of trees, tree selection, tree care and timber and wood products usage.

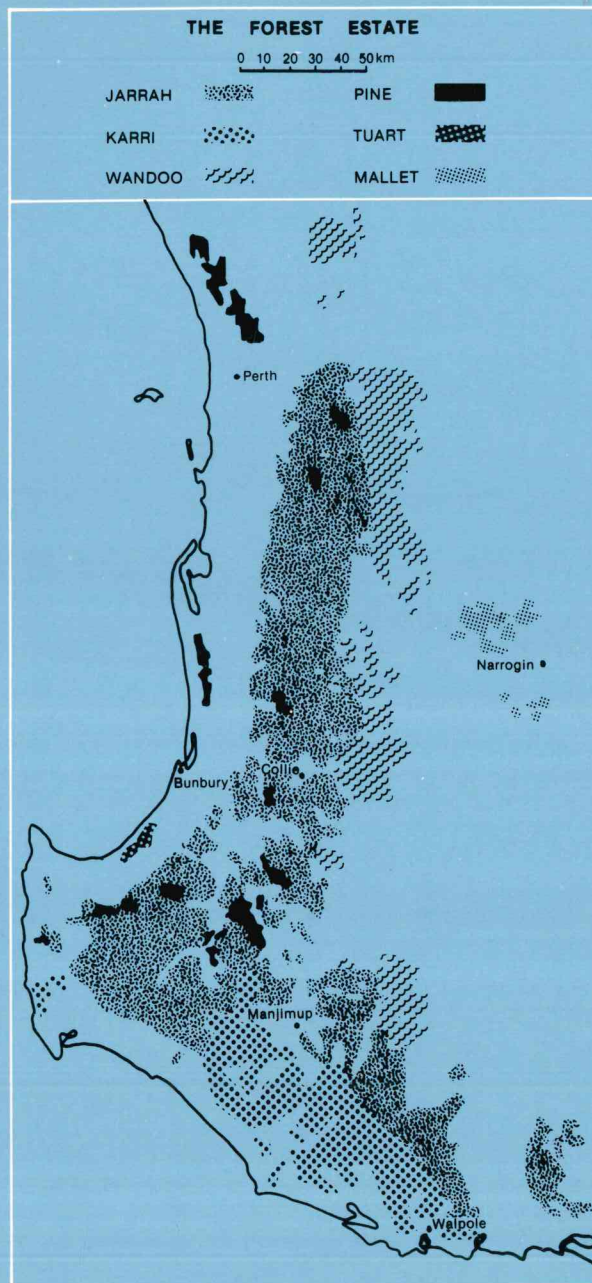
Recreational information, self-guiding tours and walk trail maps are available from any Forests Department Office, from tourist bureaux and from some hotels and tourist centres.

The Department maintains an active educational programme, featuring visits, talks, films and project material.

For further information, please call or write to

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FORESTS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

*An abbreviated guide
to the Forests of
Australia's largest State*



**Forests Department
Western Australia**

Forestry in Action Series

Forests of Western Australia

Trees occur over most of the moist and semi-arid parts of Western Australia, but with few exceptions, forests occur only in the south-west corner of the State where the annual rainfall exceeds 500 mm. Timber from these forests provided the first exports after European settlement, and for a period of 80 years, from 1837 until 1917, forest exploitation was virtually uncontrolled. Since the Forests Act was passed in 1918, the Forests Department of Western Australia has been responsible for control and management of State forests, timber reserves and some freehold lands.

Resource Management

Since the early days of European settlement in Western Australia, the State's forest resources have been under pressure from various groups. Viewpoints, ranging from clearing for agriculture to preservation in its natural state, have failed to recognize the validity of the multitude of other forest uses.

The very nature of forests and their produce demands long range planning and management techniques. These must meet the needs of all sections of the community while protecting and cultivating a natural resource for future generations whose needs may be very different from ours.

The adoption by the State Government in 1976 of the Department's multiple use policy ushered in a new era in forest management. Multiple use provides for management of a working forest without causing its destruction.

Essentially, the multiple use programme allows for:

- zoning of forest areas to preserve flora, fauna and landscape;
- catchment protection;
- protection of forest values;
- recreational zones;
- establishment of road, river and stream reserves;
- scientific use of the forest in terms of research and silviculture.

Some Comparative Figures

	W.A.	U.S.A.
Total Area	252.6 million ha.	770 million ha.
Area of Forest	2.0 million ha.	196 million ha.
Per cent Forest	0.7%	24.3%
Population	1 million	225 million
Forest/head	1.9 ha.	0.87 ha.

Area by Species (ha)

Jarrah (<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i>)	1449 000
Karri (<i>E. diversicolor</i>)	149 000
Wandoo (<i>E. wandoo</i>)	106 000
Mallet (<i>E. astringens</i>)	10 000
Tuart (<i>E. gomphocephala</i>)	3 000
Pine (planted)	55 000
Gold fields species	30 000
Other species	212 000
Total	<u>2014 000</u>

Forest Products

Recreation	500 000 visitors per year
Water - storage	874 million cubic metres
- annual usage	175 million cubic metres
Flora and fauna	Thousands of species conserved
Seed collected	880 kilograms per year
Tree nurseries	7500 000 seedlings per year
Wood Products (1982/83)	
Hardwood logs	637 063 cubic metres
Pine logs	41 611 cubic metres
Chip/Pulp	547 124 cubic metres
Sandalwood	1 714 tonnes
Firewood	57 174 tonnes
Poles/Piles	215 555 linear metres

Employment (monthly average)

Sawmills and processing	4 760
Firewood, pole cutters	59
Sandalwood	65
Apiarists (beekeepers)	161
Forestry	1 228
	<u>6 273</u>

- controlled and continuing wood production;