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# CALM BRIEFING PAPER 2/91

(Updated 1 July 1992)

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## DOMESTIC FIREWOOD, CRAFTWOOD AND OTHER MINOR FOREST PRODUCTS IN THE SOUTH WEST

### ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS

**Question 1:** Can I collect firewood from State forest for my own use?

**Answer:** Yes

The general public can gather firewood, at no cost and without any licence or permit, from State forest provided:

- (a) A maximum of half a tonne (utility or trailer load) is removed at any one time,
- (b) No standing trees are felled (either dead or alive),
- (c) The firewood is not sold,
- (d) All forest regulations are obeyed. For example, entry into dieback disease risk (quarantine) areas is allowed only by permit.

**Comment:** In some CALM Districts (eg, Wanneroo, Mundaring, Jarrahdale), public firewood areas are designated and signposted. In some cases collection of firewood is made easier by CALM employees, and in the Districts where this occurs a charge is made.

The half a tonne limit is designed to differentiate between gathering of firewood by the public and the activities of commercial firewood merchants.

The most appropriate equipment to use to collect firewood is a chainsaw, an axe and a wheelbarrow.

**Question 2:** Can firewood be removed from National Parks, Nature Reserves, Conservation Reserves or other vested land?

**Answer:** No

**Comment:** Removal of any fauna and flora, including firewood, from areas such as John Forrest National Park, Thomsons Lake Nature Reserve or the Lane Poole Reserve is not permitted.

It is important that people determine the land tenure before collecting firewood. Contact the local CALM office if you are in doubt.

**Question 3: What is CALM's policy regarding commercial harvesting of firewood?**

**Answer:** All commercial firewood operations are being progressively administered through a contract system.

**Comment:** The main aim of the policy is to reduce the number of operations in the bush to decrease the risk of spreading jarrah dieback disease. The system is also designed to ensure the equitable and orderly marketing of the firewood by calling public tenders for the available resource.

There are a number of people who have contracts with CALM to harvest firewood. These people have the responsibility to harvest firewood according to stringent conditions to ensure that the forest environment is not damaged.

No new licences or permits are being issued in CALM's Swan Region, (administrative districts of Wanneroo, Mundaring, Jarrahdale and Dwellingup) the Central Forest Region Districts of Harvey, Collie, Kirup and Busselton, and in Narrogin District.

**Question 4: Can I obtain a commercial licence to cut firewood in other forest districts?**

**Answer:** Yes at present.

**Comment:** There is less demand for firewood in areas distant from Perth. Forest Produce Licences may be obtained from the Manager of the CALM district offices at Nannup, Manjimup, Pemberton and Walpole, provided the Manager is satisfied that there is a suitable area available and that the person collecting the firewood will comply with the conditions of the licence. However, as time progresses it is proposed that firewood will be offered for sale by tender, and harvesting will be controlled by contracts, resulting in the complete phasing out of the use of Forest Produce Licences for the sale of bush firewood.

**Question 5: Can I become a CALM-employed contractor to cut firewood?**

**Answer:** Yes, if you are successful in bidding at a public tender.

**Comment:** New people wishing to enter the industry will be encouraged to participate in the tendering system.

Harvesting of most logs on State forest is now carried out by logging contractors employed by CALM. These contractors produce all types of logs (including firewood) from a particular area of forest. These contracts are awarded after the calling of public tenders.

**Question 6: When will CALM be next selling firewood by auction or tender?**

**Answer:** Public sales of firewood are held approximately once a year and are advertised in *The West Australian* and local papers.

**Comment:** It is suggested that, if you are interested in bidding for firewood in the future, you write to CALM asking that your name be recorded. You will then receive advice when tenders are next called. The address to write to is:

Executive Director  
Department of Conservation and Land Management  
PO Box 104  
COMO WA 6152

ATTENTION: Manager, Timber Supply

**Question 7: Can you tell me names of people who supply firewood purchased from CALM?**

**Answer:** Yes

**Comment:** A list current at 1 June 1992 is attached. The list is updated from time to time and can be obtained from the nearest CALM office.

**Question 8: How does CALM charge commercial operators for firewood?**

**Answer:** The price of firewood is made up of a number of components as detailed on the attached list of "Prices of minor forest products".

**Comment:** A commercial operator who does his own harvesting pays a price which includes:

- royalty - to cover the value of the wood,
- in-forest costs - to cover CALM's in-forest management, and
- roading - to cover the cost of building and maintaining forest roads

A commercial operator who is supplied with firewood by CALM employed logging contractors pays the above plus the costs of the harvesting (felling, extraction and loading of logs) and, if applicable, the cost of delivery to the buyer's yard.

Prices are subject to indexation at six monthly intervals - 1 January and 1 July.

It is possible that a royalty higher than the standard is paid. This happens where a person has bid a higher price following a public tender or auction.

**Question 9: What is the quality of firewood?**

**Answer:** The current standard specification for domestic firewood logs sold by CALM is as follows:

**Species:** Jarrah, or any other species acceptable to the buyer

**Moisture content:** "Bush dry". That is, the logs are ex-standing dead trees with most bark absent, or from logs that have been lying on the ground for at least three years.

**Dimensions:**

Diameter - minimum underbark 150mm  
maximum underbark 1200mm  
Length - minimum 1.8m  
maximum unlimited

**Unacceptable defects:**

- Decayed wood, if the proportion by volume is greater than 15%
- Shattered wood
- Double heart or spiral grain likely to hinder manual splitting of sawn blocks

**Question 10: Can firewood be supplied during winter?**

**Answer:** Yes, however, restrictions apply in many areas of forest.

**Comment:** You should contact the nearest CALM district office to ascertain where firewood may be obtained in winter.

Supply of firewood, like all other products from the jarrah forest, is often severely limited in winter months to minimise the risk of spreading jarrah dieback. Costs are higher in winter which will generally result in a higher price being charged to the consumer.

CALM is encouraging buyers of logs to accept logs during the summer months for stockpiling and sale during winter.

**Question 11: What rules apply to cutting firewood on private property?**

**Answer:** CALM has no control, and therefore sets no rules, on the cutting or selling of firewood from private property.

**Comment:** You will need permission from the owner to remove firewood from private property. In some areas of the South West the cutting down of trees on private property is not permitted without approval from the Department of Agriculture.

The sale of firewood may be subject to local council by-laws.

It pays to check all these points before embarking on any activity involving firewood.

**Question 12: How can I obtain Craftwood from the forest?**

**Answer:** Craftwood can be collected after obtaining a Forest Produce Licence at the local CALM District office in the area from which the wood is to be collected.

**Comment:** Craftwood is a term used to describe a piece of wood on the forest floor. It is generally small in size, but with certain features of grain, colour or shape that make it suitable for manufacture into craft items.

Burls can not be obtained on a "craftwood licence" (see Question 15).

**Question 13: What are the conditions for a craftwood licence?**

**Answer:** The Forest Produce Licence for craftwood gives a person access to areas of State forest to collect small quantities of timber for manufacture into craft items. It is not designed to allow people to set up mini-sawmilling or timber processing operations for supply of sawn timber to other people.

**Comment:** The specific rules are as follows:

- (a) Only material from the forest floor can be collected, from areas of forest indicated on the licence. No standing tree, either dead or alive, can be felled.
- (b) The maximum length of timber that can be removed from the forest is 1.5 metres. If any particular piece of wood greater than 1.5 metres is required, it must be inspected and marked by a Forest Officer before collection.
- (c) Only hand tools such as an axe, wheelbarrow and chainsaw may be taken into the forest to collect craftwood. Portable sawmills, tractors and winches are not permitted.
- (d) Vehicles taken into the forest must remain on forest roads or tracks.

**Question 14: What does craftwood cost?**

**Answer:** The Forest Produce Licence fees current at 1 January 1992 are attached. Updated licence fees are available from the nearest CALM office.

**Question 15: Can burls be collected as craftwood?**

**Answer:** No

**Comment:** Burls (the woody growths on the sides of some trees) are relatively scarce and are subject to specific higher royalties. Burls, if available may be purchased via a Forest Produce Licence issued by a local CALM District office.

In the near future CALM intends to make burls available for sale by tender.

The current price of burls is shown on the list attached.

**Question 16: Can craftwood be exported?**

**Answer:** Yes. However, an export licence is required from the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry and Energy.

**Comment:** It is the policy of the Western Australian Government that raw material such as craftwood be processed essentially by local craftspeople. However, where there is more craftwood material and burls available than required to meet local requirements, CALM will support applications to export the excess.

There is no restriction on the export of craftwood to other Australian States.

**Question 17: How can I buy posts, rails, strainers and other small sized round timbers for fencing purposes?**

**Answer:** Refer to the commercial operators on the attached list of minor forest produce suppliers.

**Comment:** As with firewood, CALM has been progressively phasing out the use of Forest Produce Licences for the sale of fencing material (sometimes known as "non engineering grade rounds"). However, Licences may still be obtained for small quantities of fencing material in the CALM Districts of Kirup, Nannup, Manjimup, Pemberton and Walpole, if the relevant District Manager has material available for sale.

Further queries may be directed to the nearest CALM District or Regional office, or to the Manager, Timber Supply at 50 Hayman Road, Como (phone 367 0333).

## MINOR FOREST PRODUCE SUPPLIERS, AS AT 1 JUNE 1992

The following people/firms currently purchase bush firewood, and/or small rounds for fencing and other purposes, from CALM, under Contract of Sale.

**Area abbreviations:** Dwp - Dwellingup  
 J'dale - Jarrahdale  
 Mdg - Mundaring

Name	Supplier of Bush Firewood	Supplier of Small Rounds/ Posts	Area where Timber is Sourced	Contact Phone No
Ashkate Timber Co (Dick Moore)	X	X	Dwp/J'dale	(09) 525 2168
Attwell C	X	X	Dwp/J'dale	(09) 525 5210
Beaman D	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 399 3996
Beaman G	X	X	Dwp/J'dale	(09) 337 2867
Bosworth P	X		Harvey	(09) 399 6785
Bryant R	X		Collie	(097) 25 2587
Bunnings Forest Products	X	X	Worsley Pole Dump (Collie)	(097) 25 4477
Bushwood Supplies	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 361 7873
Busselton Firewood Supplies (B Stroud)	X		Busselton	(097) 52 3869
Caporn K	X		Mundaring	(09) 294 3648
Colli & Sons	X		Dwp/Mdg	(09) 390 4499
Chac N V	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 525 1689
Dryandra Timber Products	X	X	Narrogin	(098) 83 6064
Ferguson C	X	X	Mundaring	(09) 574 2030
Fort A	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 538 1285
Francis B	X		Mundaring	(09) 574 6226
Fullgrabe A	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 399 2867
Haggett G	X	X	Dwp/J'dale	(09) 538 1086
Glen Forest Firewood (O Readhead)	X		Mundaring	(09) 298 8215
Golden Mile Timber Co	X		Kalgoorlie	(090) 932 388
Johnston D	X		Mdg/Dwp	(09) 361 2108

Name	Supplier of Bush Firewood	Supplier of Small Rounds/ Posts	Area where Timber is Sourced	Contact Phone No
Keighley J	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 384 7671
Kelmscott Recycling	X		Mdg/Dwp	(09) 497 1360
Kemboy Pastoral Co (Wornes)	X		Walpole	(098) 401 001
Kennedy D		X	Mdg/Dwp	(09) 293 8209
Kerfoot C	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 535 5097
Lakeside Pty Ltd	X		Mdg/Dwp	(09) 535 2330
Lavery & Fletcher	X		Harvey	(097) 29 2286
Lesmurdie Firewood Supplies	X		Mdg/Dwp	(09) 291 9700
L & H Firewood Supplies	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 344 2134
Merenda Transport	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 344 3520
Munut G	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 390 5954
Nettleton B	X	X	Dwp/J'dale	(09) 419 1973
O'Meagher M	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 397 5949
Patton J	X		Busselton	(097) 52 1840
Pepper A	X		Walpole	(098) 44 4499
Pieri Timber Supplies	X	X	Dwp/J'dale	(09) 274 2068
Pickering Brook Sawmills	X		Mundaring	(09) 293 8209
R & M Cleaning (R Rintoul)	X		Dwellingup	(09) 528 3905
Ridolfo V & D	X		Dwellingup	(09) 458 9244
Strawbridge P	X		Harvey	(09) 417 9352
Riegert J		X	Harvey	(097) 33 5197
Rowney C		X	Busselton	(097) 53 1067
Slater R	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 478 2158
SPD Wood Supplies (P Payne)	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 294 3701
Taylor B	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 279 3946
Terry A	X		Harvey/Collie	(097) 34 2495
Todd D	X	X	Harvey	(097) 29 2286

Name	Supplier of Bush Firewood	Supplier of Small Rounds/ Posts	Area where Timber is Sourced	Contact Phone No
Waugh T	X		Kirup	(097) 71 1096
Welsh C	X	X	Harvey	(097) 33 1223
Wadsworth P	X		Manjimup	(097) 71 1684
White Bros	X		Dwellingup	(09) 250 1306
Winfield I	X	X	Busselton	(097) 55 7533
Walliston Firewood Supplies (Guiffre)	X		Mdg/Dwp	(09) 291 6371
Zanki I	X		Dwp/J'dale	(09) 337 2867

### PRICES OF MINOR FOREST PRODUCTS (ex south west areas) CURRENT AT 1 JANUARY 1992

	Firewood \$/tonne	Fencing material \$/tonne	Craftwood \$/tonne	Burls \$/tonne
Royalty	4.77	15.77	4.77	200.00
In-forest costs	0.59	1.18	1.18	1.18
Roading: Swan and Central Forest Regions	1.97	1.97	1.97	1.97
Southern Forest Region	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28
<b>Sub Total: Swan and Central Forest Regions</b>	<b>7.33</b>	<b>18.92</b>	<b>7.92</b>	<b>203.15</b>
<b>Southern Forest Region</b>	<b>7.64</b>	<b>19.23</b>	<b>8.23</b>	<b>203.46</b>
Production (if applicable)	16.00 Approx	23.00 Approx	N/A	N/A
Delivery (if applicable)	**	**	N/A	N/A

\*\* Variable depending on distance. For example, approximately \$7.00/tonne for 50km haul distance