



CALM BRIEFING PAPER 2/91

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 areas is allowed only by permit.

Comment: In some CALM Districts (i.e., Wanneroo, Mundaring, Jarrahdale, Dwellingup, Harvey, Collie and Kirup), 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 collect fire wood is a chainsaw, and a wheelbarrow is sometimes an advantage.

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 Northern Forest Region (administrative districts of Wanneroo, Mundaring, Jarrahdale and Dwellingup) and Harvey 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. Licences may be obtained from the Manager of the relevant CALM district 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, during 1991 it is proposed that firewood will be offered for sale by tender and harvesting will be controlled by contracts.

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.

In some areas it is possible that people can produce firewood from logs delivered to log dumps in the bush by these contractors. From time to time, tenders are also called inviting contractors to harvest firewood only from specified areas of forest.

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

Answer: Public sales of firewood are held at relatively frequent intervals 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 Production Branch

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

Answer: Yes

Comment: A list current at 31 January 1991 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. It includes a royalty to cover the value of the wood, together with charges made to cover the use of forest roads and CALM's management (known as in-forest costs). Harvesting costs, including falling, extraction and loading firewood logs and, if applicable delivery to the buyer's yard, must also be paid for.

Comment: Prices including a standard royalty are subject to indexation at six-monthly intervals in January and July each year.

It is possible that a higher royalty than the standard is paid where a person has bid a higher price as a result of a public tender or auction.

The price for firewood, current as from 1 January 1991, is attached.

Question 9: What is the quality of firewood?

Answer: The current 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 stock-piling 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) No more than 40 cubic metres of craftwood can be collected by one licensee in any 12 month period.

- (c) 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.
- (d) 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.
- (e) Vehicles taken into the forest must remain on forest roads or tracks.

Question 14: What does craftwood cost?

Answer: The licence fees current at 1 January 1991 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 subject to specific higher royalties and may be purchased from the Harvey Wood Utilisation Research Centre.

CALM occasionally makes burls available for sale by auction or tender.

If available, Forest Produce Licences are sometimes issued for the collection of burls at royalty rates shown in CALM's Royalty Schedule (a copy of the rates as at 1 January 1991 are 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.

As soon as the necessary regulations have been gazetted, exporters of craftwood will be required to obtain a Craftwood Merchants Licence, to be issued by CALM. This licence will require the source of the material to be clearly identified.

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

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

COMMERCIAL FIREWOOD RETAILERS, CURRENT AT 1 JANUARY 1991

Name	Address	Phone
* Ashkate Timber Co	Summerfield Road, Serpentine	(09) 525 2168
* C Atwell	Kargotich Road, Mundijong	(09) 525 5210
D Beaman	13 Crawley Road, Armadale	(09) 399 3996
* G Beaman	Chittering Valley Road Chittering Valley	(09) 337 2867
PJ & DB Bosworth	74 Girraween Street, Armadale	(09) 399 6785
Bunnings Forest Products	GPO Box R1276, Perth	(09) 421 6777
Bushwood Supplies	101 Etwell Street, East Victoria Park	(09) 361 7873
Busselton Firewood Supplies	169 Duke Street, Busselton	(097)
K Caporn	51 Viveash Road, Swanview	(09) 294 3648
Colli & Sons	Brookton Highway, Kelmscott	(09) 390 4499
* L S Day Enterprises	PO Box 424, Mandurah	(09) 535 2524
* D & M Pergolas	Post Office Dwellingup	
B Francis	Lot 52 Burgess Road, Gidgegannup	(09) 574 6226
A H Fullgrabe	Lot 195, Carradine Street, Bedforddale	(09) 399 2867
B & P Gray	Lot 26 Karbro Drive, Cardup	
D P Johnston	67 Star Street, Carlisle	(09) 361 2108
J Keighley	28 Reeve Street, Swanbourne	(09) 384 7671
Kelmscott Recycling Plant	273 South West Highway, Armadale	(09) 497 1360
D Kennedy	c/o 34 Carinyah Road, Pickering Brook	(09) 293 8209
C S Kerfoot	Balmoral Road, Jarrahdale	(09) 525 5097
Ladeside Pty Ltd	64 Allnut Street, Mandurah	(09) 535 2330
G W Lavery & M A Fletcher	16 Abalone Crescent, Waikiki	(097) 292 286
L & H Firewood Supplies	13 Loxwood Road, Balga	(09) 344 2134
Merenda Transport	6 Champion Avenue, Balcatta	(09) 344 3520
JA & GT Moore	RMB 446 Tuart Road, Oakford	(09) 419 2508
G Munut	9 Foster Road, Kelmscott	(09) 390 5954
* B Nettleton	126 Medina Avenue, Medina	(09) 419 1973
M E O'Meagher	253 Irymple Road, Roleystone	(09) 397 5949
J A Patton	19 Achurch Crescent, Busselton	(097) 521 840
G R Pengelly (Monad Propriety)	553 Leys Road, Armadale	(09) 399 7392
Pickering Brook Sawmill	34 Carinyah Road, Pickering Brook	(09) 293 8209
Pieri Timber Supplies	Lot 6 Swan Street, Hazelmere	(09) 274 2068
O Readhead	Lot 15, McGlew Road, Glen Forest	(09) 298 8215
WC & CE Reeves	Lot 3 Nettleton Road, Jarrahdale	(09) 525 5435

* These people also produce fencing material

Commercial firewood retailers, current at 1 January 1991 (Continued)

Name	Address	Phone
V & D Ridolfo	82 Dowd Street, Welshpool	(09) 458 9244
J Riegert	Johnston Road, Yarloop	(097) 335 197
MC & JH Rogers	Lot 2 Nicholson Road, Forrestdale	(09) 397 0082
RL & PA Slater	380 Fisher Street Cloverdale	(09) 478 2158
SPD Wood Supplies	2 Crossway Street, Swanview	(09) 294 3701
B L Taylor	4 Barlee Way, Beechboro	(09) 279 3946
A J & K M Terry	98 Macmanus Road, Allanson Park, Collie	(097) 342 495
* DJ & MW Todd	32 South West Highway, Harvey	(097) 292 286
Nguyen Van Chac	Michael Street, Byford	(09) 525 1689
Walliston Firewood Supplies	21 Raymond Road, Walliston	(09) 291 6371
R K Waugh	PO Box 157, Donnybrook	(097) 317 141
T J & M B Waugh	PO Box 410, Manjimup	(097) 711 096
C & ER Welsh	10 Allowrie Street, Hamel	(097) 331 223
I & G Zanki	Redmond Road, Hamilton Hill	(09) 337 2867

* These people also produce fencing material

PRICES CURRENT AT 1 JANUARY 1991

Components of the price of firewood

The price of firewood is made up of:

(a) Royalty	\$4.77 per tonne
(b) In-forest costs	\$0.59 per tonne
(c) Roothing charge	\$1.97 per tonne
Sub total	\$7.33 per tonne
(d) Production	approximately \$15.00 per tonne
(e) Delivery	(if applicable) variable depending on delivery distance. Example: approximately \$6.00 per tonne for 50 km cartage distance.

CRAFTWOOD LICENCES

(a)	For one month or up to 3m ³ of craftwood	\$ 11.93
(b)	For 6 months or up to 10m ³ of craftwood	\$ 59.63
(c)	For 12 months or up to 40m ³ of craftwood	\$119.25

ROYALTY FOR BURLS

Diameter	\$/each
< 250 mm	\$ 3.28
251 - 500 mm	\$ 6.57
501 - 750 mm	\$ 13.13
751 - 1000 mm	\$ 26.26
1001 - 1250 mm	\$ 52.52
1251 - 1500 mm	\$105.04
1501 - 1750 mm	\$210.07

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