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# CALM BRIEFING PAPER 3/91

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## FUTURE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The 1987 Forest Region Management Plans and Timber Strategy enabled a new level of integrated forest management to be developed in Western Australia, securing both representative conservation reserves and timber supply. This resource security gave the timber industry the incentive to use the available resource more efficiently and produce higher value products.

However the management plans and the Western Australian Chip and Pulp Environmental Review and Management Plan, which came out at the same time, were unable to finalise a number of issues, namely:-

- the reallocation of the road, river and stream zones protection system;
- the silvicultural procedures required to protect stream freshness in the salt risk zones, for which the Environmental Protection Authority required a separate Environmental Management Program before alterations to current practice would be endorsed;
- the final jarrah yield levels which were dependent on the then recently instigated jarrah inventory; and
- the identification and management of places of national estate significance on which there were major philosophical differences between State agencies and the Australian Heritage Commission.

The results of the jarrah inventory are now becoming available, enabling the resource implications of possible adjustments to the road, river and stream zones and alterations to silvicultural practices to be fully considered.

In addition, negotiations with the Australian Heritage Commission have led to an agreement on the mechanism for a joint whole-of-forest assessment for national estate values.

Corporate Executive has decided not to deal with these issues in isolation but to resolve them within the framework of the already successful timber strategy. I have appointed a working group to do this comprising Alan Walker, Sue Moore, Gavin Butcher, Bob Chandler and Paul Jones. They will also review aspects of forest management to improve environmental and aesthetic sensitivity and the result will be a major position statement on the charter, principles and practice of our forest management.

This review in no way subjugates the commitments given in the Forest Management Plans or Timber Strategy. It is a step forward, enhancing all forest values through better integration of timber production with flora, fauna and landscape protection. Visual resource management into coupe planning, the identification of special management zones, coupe size, spatial and structural distribution and rotation lengths will all be considered.

The working group is reporting to a steering committee comprising myself, General Manager Roger Underwood, and the Directors of Nature Conservation, Forests, Research and Information Resources (Dr Wilson, Mr Keene, Dr Burbidge and Dr McKinnell).

The review was announced by the Minister in a speech to the Australian Forestry Council at Coffs Harbour, late in February. A copy of his speech is at each Region, District or Branch office.

Corporate Executive has also initiated the writing of a nature conservation strategy for all land managed by CALM and to meet other responsibilities under the Wildlife Conservation Act. This document will contain the principles for management of all natural resources to retain or enhance biological diversity. In effect, the position paper on forest management will describe how the nature conservation strategy will apply in the forests of the South West.

The working group will be seeking comment from CALM staff and the public. There will be opportunities for input through your district/region/branch manager or direct to one of the working group. I look forward to your involvement.



Syd Shea  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR