

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

POLICY STATEMENT NO 3

DIEBACK AND LOGGING

REVISED DECEMBER 1988

INTRODUCTION

The Policy Directorate is continuing to develop policies for the protection of National Parks, Nature Reserves and State Forests from dieback.

As a further step in this process, the directorate has reviewed its Policy Statement No 3 which deals with logging in State forests.

POLICY

- (1) CALM WILL CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT THE FORMER FOREST DEPARTMENT'S DIEBACK POLICY 1982, IN ALL HARDWOOD LOGGING OPERATIONS IN STATE FORESTS.
- (2) CALM WILL CONTINUE WITH THE EVALUATION OF OPERATIONAL PROPOSALS ON ALL ITS LANDS, USING THE 7-WAY TEST.

COMMENT

These decisions recognise that although our dieback knowledge is incomplete (eg. the terminal impact of the disease on all vegetation types is not yet clear) the Dieback Policy and the 7-Way Tests are still appropriate.

Operations on all departmental lands must consider protection from dieback spread. However, the remainder of this paper will focus on HARDWOOD LOGGING operations in State forests.

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

Guidelines for the implementation of the Dieback Policy and 7-Way Tests for LOGGING different areas of hardwood forest are as follows:

- (1) Forests South of the Preston River (see attached map area 3)
 - 1.1 Logging equipment will be cleaned down before entering and leaving a karri dominant coupe. Current arrangements with respect to soil damage will continue, as prescribed in the departmental Code of Logging Practice and Manual of Hardwood Logging Specifications.

- 1.2 Jarrah types will be logged using the most up-to-date hygiene prescriptions. On sites where disease hazard is rated as low to moderate, skidding under moist soil conditions with soil movement will be permitted. With respect to soil damage the criteria prescribed in the Manual of Hardwood Logging Specifications must be met.

On sites where disease hazard is rated as high or the consequences on the designated landuse are high (eg. areas around Kirup, or where karri is upslope of high hazard sites) logging under no soil movement conditions only, may be required. These areas will be automatically identified in the evaluation of the 7-Way Test, and appropriate conditions laid down before the 7-Way Test is approved.

Comment

This decision is based on the fact that few areas in the Southern Forest show signs of high impact when the disease is introduced, though some deaths in the understorey and of jarrah trees have occurred on some sites.

Cessation of logging for a minimum of one month each year may be necessary to prevent soil disturbance and for hygiene in these vegetation types. These periods do not relate to specific calendar months.

- (2) Forests in the Sunklands - (see map - area 2)

Jarrah types will be logged using the most up-to-date hygiene prescriptions. On low to moderate hazard sites skidding under moist soil conditions with soil movement will be permitted. Arrangements with respect to soil damage will continue as prescribed in the departmental Code of Logging Practice and Manual of Hardwood Logging Specifications.

Comment

This decision recognizes that many areas of the Sunklands forest are dieback-free and that some are of high quality. Dieback hygiene, including dieback-free and hazard mapping is required. Logging with no soil movement is preferred.

Cessation of logging in the bush for 5-6 months each year may be necessary so as to prevent soil disturbance, and improve hygiene. These periods do not relate to specific calendar months.

- (3) Forests North of the Preston River (see map - area 1)

3.1 Logging machinery will be cleaned down before entering and leaving a wandoo dominant coupe. Current arrangements with respect to other environmental factors are prescribed in the departmental Code of Logging Practice and Manual of Hardwood Logging Specifications.

- 3.2 Jarrah types will be logged using the most up-to-date hygiene prescriptions. While the information on dieback hazard is imprecise, logging under dry soil conditions will be maximised.

Cessation of logging in the bush for a minimum of 4 months and a maximum of 6 months may be necessary. These periods do not relate to specific calendar months.

Logging of dieback areas in moist soil conditions with soil movement is approved.

In dieback free areas, logging of low and moderate hazard sites (including most S types) in moist soil conditions, without soil movement is approved, provided that:

- (i) the area is interpretable;
- (ii) the area is accessible without placing high hazard sites at risk;
- (iii) the area is not upslope of high hazard sites.

Moist soil logging will be directed to areas where dieback-free and hygiene maps are available, and where landform or site vegetation mapping has been completed. This applies both within and outside the Disease Risk Area.

Current arrangements with respect to other environmental factors are prescribed in the departmental Code of Logging Practice and Manual of Hardwood Logging Specifications.

Comment

These decisions recognize the sensitivity and importance of these forests, especially those on catchments in the zone of high salinity. Sensitive areas will be identified by the 7-Way Test and appropriate conditions laid down before the 7-Way Test is approved.



Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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