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# CALM BRIEFING PAPER 2/87

## DRAFT REGIONAL MANAGEMENT PLANS AND TIMBER STRATEGY

On the 13th April 1987, the Government launched the three draft management plans for the Northern, Central and Southern Regions, and the State's timber strategy. These were prepared by the Department and will be the cause of much debate and many public submissions. Submissions close on 17th July.

Preparation of these plans has been one of the most important tasks for this Department since its inception. They establish our management strategy for the forests over the next 10 years. Past management has been the source of criticism, and an often unfair attack on the Department and its officers. However, the new plans will avoid this to a large extent.

Rather than having State forests subdivided administratively for conservation, recreation, water catchment, timber production, etc., these land uses will be designated under new legislation such that their security of purpose is the same as for national parks and nature reserves. That is, for an area of State forest to be changed from a purpose of conservation of flora and fauna, or from a purpose of timber production, will require the approval of both houses of Parliament.

We are proposing a security of purpose for conservation areas that should be acceptable to the conservation movement and long term viability prospects for the timber industry.

Another important aspect of the plans is the proposal for new categories of land tenure, namely State parks and forest parks. These changes have implications for all CALM controlled land.

Rather than provide you with more detail about these plans I invite all CALM staff to:

1. Watch the video called "What Future for Our Forests?" It outlines these proposals and promotes the role of CALM. The video runs for 17 minutes and is available at every regional office, at district offices in the forest regions, and can be lent from Information Branch, Como.
2. Read the colour booklet of the same name. It is widely available in regional and district offices.
3. Borrow the video and hand out copies of the booklet among your friends and relatives, and larger 'social circle'.

We have mounted a major campaign to promote these plans and the timber strategy, to invite public submissions, and to speak to various community groups for purposes of clarifying the proposals they contain. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Syd Shea  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR