



RECENT criticism of CALM over false claims made by environmental groups and some members of the tourism industry that the Department proposes to halve the karri stream, river and road reserve system must be defended.

The Department has made a number of recommendations in a review of the system — entitled The Road, River and Stream Zone System in the Southern Forest of Western Australia — which has been submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority.

The EPA are reviewing the proposal and will submit a recommendation on whether to accept the proposal or not to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Barry Hodge.

CALM's submission proposes a redistribution of road, river and stream zones to improve the conservation of flora, fauna and the hydrology of the southern forest.

## SW zone system — the facts

By SYD SHEA

This proposal is based on extensive scientific research undertaken since the reserve system was introduced more than 15 years ago.

The research indicated that conservation and hydrological values would be better protected if the zones were re-allocated to favour streams.

Under our proposal the total area of the new system will be the same as the existing one.

An additional consideration for CALM was how to maintain contractual arrangements with the timber industry following the State Government's decision to reserve the Shannon Basin as a national park.

As the existing road zone system is twice the width required by EPA — that

is, twice the width required by law — it was suggested that the deficit in timber supplies could be made up by clearfelling the road reserves to 200m on either side of the roads.

This suggestion was rejected. There will be no clearfelling.

Following a careful evaluation of all timber resources during the preparation of the Timber Strategy it is now proposed to selectively cut some of the outer areas of some of the road and river reserve system, that is in some areas within the zone that are furthest from some roads.

Rather than detracting from the forest the proposal is expected to benefit the

forest in a number of ways.

In particular is the added protection of stream zones where the best examples of forest can be found and where fauna is most abundant and diverse.

The thinning of the road reserves will improve the growth of the forest within the reserves while the regeneration of those areas selectively cut will provide a multi-tiered forest in both age and size that will provide nesting hollows for both birds and mammals as the older trees die.

Water quality will be maintained while increased protection of streams will reduce sedimentation.

The aesthetic values of the forest will be maintained and in some cases improved by the use of landscaping prin-

ciples in the forest along roadways.

The river and stream zones were established because they were known to be areas of high biological diversity as well as to protect watercourses.

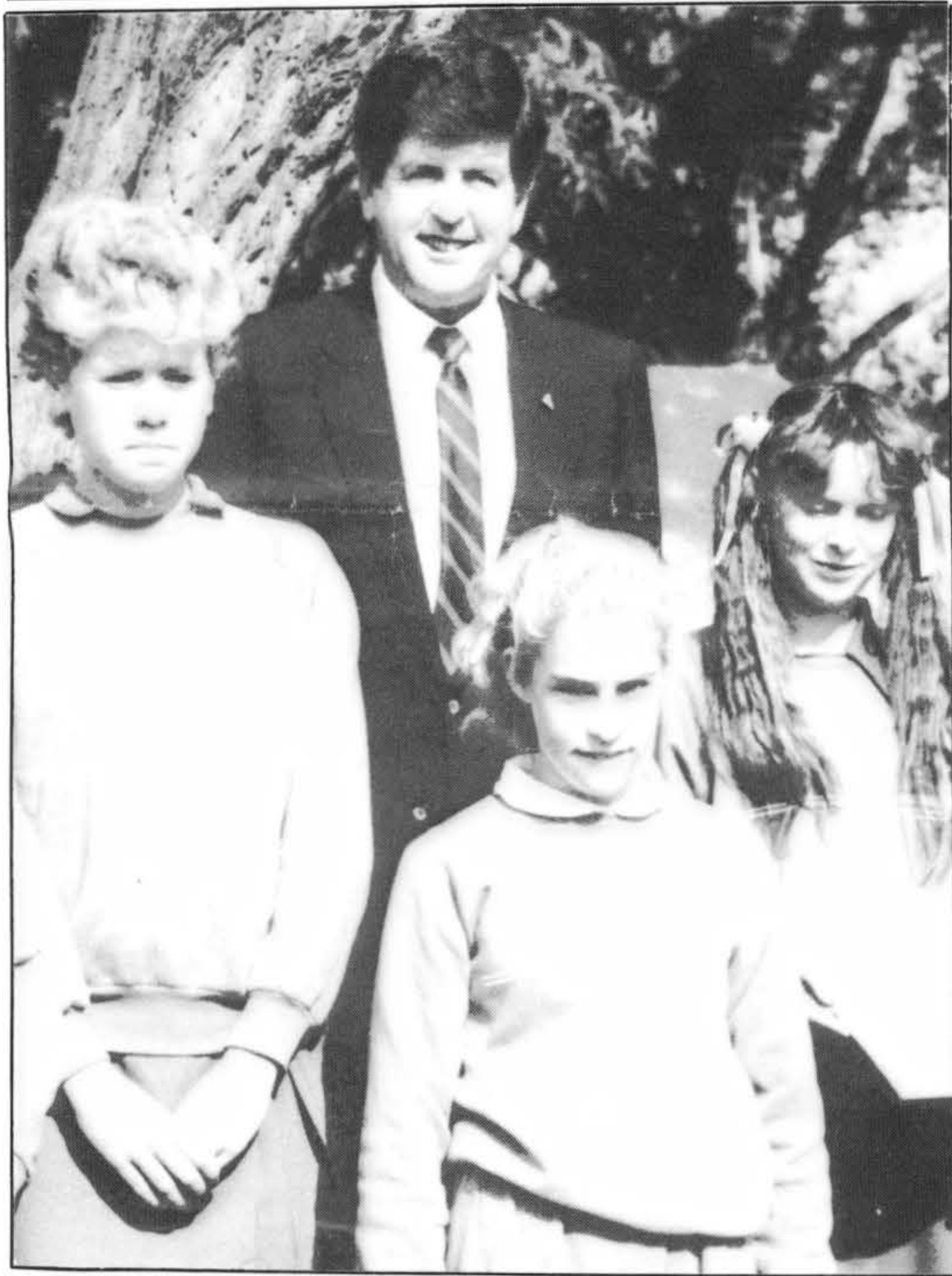
CALM's recommendation will enhance and expand this protection.

Road zones were established to maintain a vista for travellers of undisturbed forest... this will be maintained and in some places improved.

Environmentalists claim that these buffer zones will be clearfelled are not supported in CALM's proposal.

Claims that the forest will be clearfelled to provide timber to be chipped is also wrong.

It should be remembered that under the terms of the Department's Regional Management Plans and Timber Strategy about 50 per cent of the karri forest is now either in national parks, nature reserves or in an area zoned with a priority for conservation and recreation.



Barry Hodge with Badgingarra students.

## Minister presents environmental award

STUDENTS from Badgingarra Primary School near Geraldton who operate a tree nursery have won a national environmental award.

Calm Minister Barry Hodge presented the \$500 World Environment Day Youth Award to Year 7 student Cherith Nelson, who accepted it on behalf of her fellow students, at a function at Matilda Bay to mark World Environment Day, on Friday, June 3.

(World Environment Day was celebrated on Sunday, June 5.)

The students started the nursery at the school in 1981 in response to a need by farmers and others in the community who wanted to plant native trees.

Seeds of trees local to the area were donated by CALM.

The nursery has produced more than 60,000 trees which are sold by the students on an annual "tree day", on which 20,000 trees were sold this year.

The project is self-financing and has raised more than \$20,000 towards school excursions.

The nursery has wide community support and has been backed-up by CALM Extension Officer Roger Edmiston.

Mr Hodge said the success of the nursery illustrated that everyone, no matter how young or old, can be involved in environmental protection.

"There are some lessons for us all in their achievements," he said.

"It is important that we all take an active role in doing something positive for our environment."

Five World Environment Day Youth Awards are presented around Australia to young people who have contributed to improving our environment.

As part of the celebrations at Matilda Bay the Kelmscott Senior High School band and the Brentwood Primary School choir entertained invited guests.

Billy tea and damper were also served.

## CYCLONE DELAYS DESERT BURNING

HEAVY cyclonic rains in the North-Eastern Goldfields and adjacent parts of the Gibson Desert prevented the first aerial prescribed burning experiments getting underway in May in the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve.

The semi-trailer carrying fuel from Wiluna for the Department's "Islander" aircraft and vehicles became bogged up to the tray at Wongawol Station 350km short of its destination.

Further rain a few days later made matters worse, leading to the postponement of the project until September.

The Department has set up a task force to carry out the experimental burning and associated research.

Andrew Burbidge and Phil Fuller (Woodvale) arrived at the reserve first (before the rain) to set up quadrats and count birds before the burning commenced.

Next to arrive was David Pearson from Kalgoorlie Research, who will study vegetation regeneration, closely followed by Ian Kealley, Mike Tagliaferri, Dave McMillan and Andrew Chapman from Goldfields Region.

They upgraded two old airstrips in the area; both had been constructed by oil exploration companies several years ago.

The Kalgoorlie contingent had to travel via the Laverton-Warburton road and an old track northwards past Alexander Spring to avoid closed roads around Wiluna.

Neil Burrows and Karan Maisey (Woodvale), Per Christensen, Graeme Liddell, Bruce Ward and Alex Robinson (Manjimup Research) drove via Meekatharra and Wiluna and arrived with red-brown vehicles instead of the original white ones.

Neil, Karan, Bruce and Alex are studying fire behaviour and fuel dynamics in desert spinifex grasslands, while Per and Graeme are working on vertebrate animals.

All was now ready for the plane crew of Sue Folks (pilot), Gerard van Didden and Bob Selkirk to arrive — all, that is, except the fuel.

Notwithstanding the delay, the researchers were able to collect some valuable data.

One piece of good news is

that dalgytes (or Rabbit-eared Bandicoots) still occur in the nature reserve.

Phil Fuller and Andrew Burbidge found burrows and diggings on one of their bird quadrats and Per and Graeme set traps, which caught a female dalgyte with pouch young.

This was the highlight of the trip.

The animal's distribution, like many other medium

sized marsupials has declined drastically since colonisation and it is now restricted to a few relict populations in the arid interior.

The dalgyte, which we named Leanne, was captured in a box trap set inside a fresh burrow.

Leanne was fitted with a radio transmitter and released amid a barrage of flashlight and cameras on Saturday night.

On future trips it is hoped to capture and radio track further animals to study the effect of fire on their movements and behaviour.

Phil and Andrew collected useful pre fire bird data for proposed burn sites as well as control quadrats that will not be burnt.

They found a number of species breeding following good rains that fell a month

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## SEMINAR LOOKS AT TIMBER STRATEGY

MORE than 80 CALM staff attended a two-day seminar at Bunbury on March 31 and June 1 to familiarise themselves with the Timber Strategy.

The three forest regions and their districts were represented as was Crawley, specialist branches from Como and the Wheatbelt and South Coast regions.

The seminar was organised and run by John Clarke and Des Donnelly of the Forest Resources Branch under the direction of Divisional Manager Don Keene.

The seminar was opened by the Executive Director, Dr Shea, who stressed that the Regional Management Plans and Timber Strategy were a first attempt to revitalise the timber industry and to improve the public's knowledge of this important industry.

Dr Shea said CALM had received a positive reaction to its plans from the timber industry, evident in the more than \$1 billion investment plans proposed for the south-west.

He said the positive reaction was also reflected in the signing of new contracts with sawmillers.

The Forest Resources Branch had finalised at least one new timber supply con-

tract every week this year.

The seminar was broken into four sessions over the two days, the first dealing with the overall timber situation including supply, demand, inventory and silviculture.

The main speakers for this session were George Malajczuk from the Economics Branch, Hugh Campbell (Inventory) and Jack Bradshaw (Silviculture).

The second session dealt with resource allocation to industry.

The speakers were Don Keene, Regional Managers

Alan Walker, Don Spriggins and George Peet, and Principal Research Scientist Graeme Siemon.

The third and fourth sessions held on the second day covered the implementation of the Management Plans and Timber Strategy at Regional and District levels and included such areas as staff demands and Regional, Branch and Forest Resource Branch responsibilities.

The main speakers on these topics were Don Keene, John Sclater, John Clarke, Jon Murch, Jim Adams, John Smart and Alan Hill.

## ... on a lighter note

Seminars usually produce their lighter moments, and this one was no exception.

John Clarke's presentation seemed to have more relevance to the implementation of CALM's EEO and sexual harassment strategy than the timber strategy.

Regional Manager Alan Walker adopted the guise of small sawmiller "Jack Sleeper" to make some pointed comments from an outside organisation.

Regional Manager Don Spriggins presented a CALM structural model based on what looked like a flagon of wine, a funnel filter and an empty vessel.

On a final note, at the formal dinner the restaurant announced there would be no bread because it was all eaten at lunch time. On hearing this, Roger Underwood criticised the foresters present for breaking their fundamental principle: they had, he said, exceeded the lunch time permissible intake which had led to a collapse of the restaurant's sustainable yield strategy.





