

## A Masterpiece of Engineering

With the advent of tall buildings in Perth, people who are interested cannot fail to be impressed with some of the engineering aspects involved.

However, as the photograph below illustrates, not one of the buildings so far erected can match the ancient karri tree in engineering design, height and aesthetic appeal. The tallest karri tree measured so far is 286 ft. high, with a girth at breast height of 24 ft. Girths up to 38 ft. 6 in. have been measured on shorter trees.

The tallest karri is 20 ft. 6 in. above Perth's tallest building, Hamersley House, which the builder says is 265 ft. 6 in. above the Terrace.

The tree illustrated reaches up to the 286 ft. mark, dwarfing most of

Perth's buildings . . . yet this is supported on a bole of only 7 ft. 8 in. in diameter at breast height, or half the length of the latest Holden. On the subject of summer shade, the tree crown width of 117 ft. is  $19\frac{1}{2}$  times the width of this vehicle.

Each tree is a highly complicated and well balanced solar powered food factory (the cleanest factory in Western Australia) supplying energy to countless living cells which in turn help man in so many ways.

In addition, the tree pumps water from below ground level to the top-most leaf (a feat in itself) to carry nourishment—and in the process releases oxygen for human, animal and motor vehicle consumption.

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## FOREST SCAPES

*Morning sun filters through these 53-year-old jarrah trees east of Dwellingup. The height of the dominant trees is 80 ft.*

*Western Australians have recently become more aware of their environment and the values of forests. In this they are in line with international thinking.*

*As Dr. Frederick E. Smith, of Harvard University said, as keynote speaker at the 70th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Foresters: "Forests contain the largest single agent of biospheric regulation. Forests contain more biological activity than all of the oceans, and over half of the live or recently formed organic matter on the planet is in forests. Their value as a global resource seems beyond calculation."*

*The comparative heights of the tallest karri tree and Perth's buildings is indicated below.*



