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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND LAND MANAGEMENT  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# ANNUAL REPORT

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1 July 1989 - 30 June 1990



HON MINISTER  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In accordance with Section 62 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985, I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Lands and Forest Commission for the year ending 30 June 1990.

  
Hon Barry Hodge  
CHAIRMAN

## **CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW**

The term of the Chairman, Professor A J McComb, ended in August 1989 when he retired to take up the position of Deputy Chairman of the NPNCA.

The Hon Barry Hodge was appointed by the Governor to the position of Chairman on 9 August 1989.

The Commission was fortunate to have had the services of a person as distinguished as Professor McComb as Chairman and his contribution was greatly appreciated.

In an endeavour to enhance cooperation and understanding between Government agencies and authorities with an interest in forest management issues the Commission has met during the year with the Minister, the Environmental Protection Authority and the Forest Production Council.

At present the Commission is totally reliant for resources, staff and office facilities on the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

The Commission has had discussions with the Minister for the Environment about increasing the Commission's capacity to resource additional activities. The Chariman has had a sympathetic response from the Minister. It is appreciated that any additional responses may need to be phased in over a number of financial years.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION**

The Lands and Forest Commission was established under section 18 of the Conservation and Land Management Act, 1984.

## **FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION**

Functions of the Commission are determined by section 19 of the Conservation and Land Management Act, 1984. The functions of the Commission are:

- (a) to have vested in it State forest and timber reserves and relevant land referred to in section 5 (g);
- (b) to develop policies to achieve or promote the objectives described in section 56 (1) (a), (b) and (e);
- (c) to consider, in accordance with section 17, any cancellation, change or purpose or boundary alteration in respect of land vested in it;
- (d) to submit proposed management plans to the Minister as provided in Part V in respect of land vested in it;
- (e) to monitor the carrying out of management plans by the Department in respect of land vested in the Commission;
- (f) to inquire into and to advise the Minister on any matter on which the advice of the Commission is sought by the Minister;

- (g) to provide advice, upon request, on matters relating to land vested in it to any body or person, if the provision of advice is in the public interest and it is practicable for the Commission to provide it;
- (h) with the approval of the Minister, to cause study or research to be undertaken for the purposes of paragraph (b).

## **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION**

Membership of the Commission is determined by section 20 of the Conservation and Land Management Act, 1984 and comprises:

- (a) 2 persons appointed by the Governor, on the nomination of the Minister; and
- (b) the Executive Director.

Mr E Bettenay, appointed by the Minister for Conservation and Land Management as a Deputy for Mr Perry, attended on two occasions.

## **MEETINGS OF COMMISSION**

During the reporting year the Commission met on four occasions.

Meetings were conducted at the Executive Office, Department of CALM, in Crawley.

Meetings were held on:

28 November 1989	
2 April 1990	
31 May 1990	(joint meeting with FPC)
27 June 1990	(joint meeting with FPC)

## **INTERACTION WITH FOREST PRODUCTION COUNCIL (FPC)**

The Commission attended two meetings of the FPC with the objective of establishing a closer working relationship with the Council and to hold joint discussions on concerns over the public image of the forest services and timber industry.

## **INTERACTION WITH THE VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION MOVEMENT**

The Commission has discussed interaction with the Voluntary Conservation Movement with the Minister for the Environment. Meetings with the Voluntary Conservation Movement have been endorsed and items for discussion are being prepared.

## **INTERACTION WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

The Commission was invited by the EPA to attend an Authority meeting to discuss issues of concern to both the Authority and the Commission. The issues included jarrah forest management, silviculture and timber production, dieback management, sustainable yield, rotation lengths and fire management.

## **BUSINESS OF COMMISSION**

### **Wood Utilisation Research Centre**

The Commission was advised of progress with research being undertaken at CALM's Harvey Wood Utilisation Research Centre with the conversion of small logs for value-added timber products.

The Commission was informed of the Development Agreement signed with Karri Vale Pty Ltd in which the company had agreed to undertake a significant research and development project, and had paid for the licence fee to manufacture and market VALWOOD products within Australia.

### **Management Plans**

The Commission reviewed and recommended for approval the draft goals and objectives of the Dryandra Forest Management Plan.

Access for gravel for road construction and maintenance was noted as an issue which would receive specific attention in the management plan.

High priority would be given to the Numbat re-establishment programme, including control of feral animals and foxes.

The draft of the Dryandra Forest Management Plan has been delayed due to staff changes.

The Commission reviewed the final draft of the Waroona and Logue Brook Management Plans. Late amendments to the draft were approved as requested by WAWA to enable the results and extent of monitoring to be reviewed and considered at regular intervals. The Commission endorsed the final draft for approval.

The Commission attended the launch of the approved management plans at Waroona.

### **Amendments to State forest and timber reserves**

As the vesting body for State forest and timber reserves, the Commission took action on proposals put to it during the year as follows:

- Agreed that Ministerial approval be sought for proposed cancellation of Timber Reserve No. 52/25 of 3.64 ha within the Pingelly townsite. This reserve had been previously a gravel reserve and was to be bisected by a Shire road.
- Noted the addition of 4,111.7 ha to State forest.
- Noted the excision of 1,622.1 ha of State forest following Ministerial approval. These include 2 areas (5.3 ha) adjoining Collie townsite that were made available to Collie Shire for recreational purposes; and 2 areas of State forest in the Hawke-Treen Management Priority Area that are to be set aside as national parks in accordance with the recommendations of the Southern Forest Regional Management Plan.

## **Promotion of LFC and Forest Management**

The Commission sought to raise their public profile through design of a unique logo depicting a stylised forest scene.

The Commission undertook to liaise more closely with the Forest Production Council and to establish common directions.

The Commission is developing a strategy for promotion of forest and forest industries which would include discussion papers and information pamphlets, as well as public presentations.

Promotional activities of the Commission would be dependent upon the available budget to the Commission.

## **National Forest Inventory**

The Commission was informed of this program which is due for completion in 1992.

## **Timber Strategy Implementation**

The Commission was advised that CALM had entered into a series of long-term hardwood sawlog supply arrangements based on the availability of resource. All buyers are now supplied under new Contracts of Sale which replaced the old licence system. These changes to wood allocation procedures have resulted in significant improvements to the utilisation of the forest resource. The Commission was informed that a new lower royalty for third grade logs was to be applied to further encourage utilisation of these marginal sawlogs.

## **Tree Trust (now Tree Fund)**

The Commission was informed of the establishment and development of Tree Fund to implement the State Government's initiative to plant 100 million trees over the next 10 years in the south-west of Western Australia.

The established Tree Fund Limited was announced by the former Premier, Hon P Dowding in December 1989.

## **Investment in private plantations**

The Commission was informed that with the development of plantations on private agricultural land, public awareness needs to be maintained to ensure private forestry schemes were well managed and economically sustainable.

## **Select Committee on Land Conservation**

The Commission was informed of the establishment of the Select Committee on Land Conservation and the requirements of its terms of reference.

The Commission provided a detailed response to numerous questions requested by the Select Committee.

## **National Estate**

The Commission was kept informed on the developments of the National Estate nominations and any likely impact on the forest products industry.

The Commission was advised that the listing of areas on the National Estate Register was essentially an alerting mechanism by which the special values of the area were brought to the notice of planners, owners and the general community.

It was confirmed that the Register was not meant to be a land management decision system.