



# ANNUAL REPORT

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1 July 1991 - 30 June 1992

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO

The Secretary, Lands and Forest Commission, Department of Conservation and Land Management, PO Box 104, Como 6152, Western Australia.

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## **CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW**

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In February 1992 I released for public comment draft Management Strategies for the South-West Forests of Western Australia. The Strategies update the Government approved 1987 Forest Region Management Plans and Timber Strategy by (i) addressing outstanding Ministerial Conditions, (ii) taking advantage of new technologies in the timber industry, (iii) by accommodating the results of the latest comprehensive inventory of the jarrah forest, new research and geographic information systems and by (iv) incorporating heritage values in forest management.

The Commission facilitated public review of the Strategy by conducting, with the National Park and Nature Conservation Authority and the Department of Conservation and Land Management, a range of public seminars on strategic planning, multiple use management, reserve systems and wildlife protection in forests.

I record my congratulations to The Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Government of Western Australia for the historic and model agreement with the Commonwealth on the nomination, listing and registration of national estate values in the State's southern forests.

I am pleased to record that the Resource Assessment Commission has revised its preliminary finding (July 1991), that Australian forests were being harvested on a non-sustainable basis, by bringing down a principal conclusion in the final Forest and Timber Inquiry Report (March 1992) that Australian forest agencies have in place sustained yield management strategies for wood production.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION**

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

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE 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 or promote the objectives described in section 56(1)(a),(b) and (e);
- c) to consider, in accordance with section 17, any cancellation, change of 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 THE COMMISSION**

Membership of the Commission is determined by Section 20 of the Conservation and Land Management Act and comprises;

- (a) two persons appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister; and
- (b) the Executive Director of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

The Governor approved the re-appointment of the Hon B J Hodge (Chairman), Mr R A Perry (member) and Dr S R Shea (ex-officio member) to the Lands and Forest Commission on 12 November 1992 for a three year term commencing 4 September 1992.

Associate Professor J McComb continues as a Deputy member of the Commission.

## **MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION**

During the reporting year the Commission met on four occasions. Meetings were conducted at the Corporate Executive Office, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Crawley.

Meetings were held on 15 August 1991, the 29 October 1991, the 5 February 1992 and 7 April 1992.

## **BUSINESS OF THE COMMISSION**

### **Management plans**

The Commission reviewed and provided comments on sections of the Goldfields Region (draft) Regional Management Plan.

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

Under Section 19(1)(a) and (c) of the Conservation and Land Management Act the Commission is the vesting body for State forest and timber reserves and is to consider any cancellation, addition and changes of purpose and boundary for its estate.

During the year the net area of State forest decreased by 2909 hectares to an estate of 1747558 hectares due mainly to the revocation of State Forest No. 45 (Boranup) and

its addition to the adjacent Leewin Naturaliste National Park. Similarly the net area of timber reserves decreased by 2354 hectares to an estate of 14933 hectares due mainly to the cancellation of Reserve 150/25 and its inclusion in Nature Reserve 25506 (Manjimup).

As the vesting body for State forest and timber reserves, the Commission took actions on proposals put to it during the year. These included;

- (a) the Commission approved the release of a portion of Timber Reserve No. 185/25 (near Jardee) in exchange for Nelson Location 3773 within the proposed Perup Nature Reserve;
- (b) the Commission was briefed by CALM and the Department of Planning and Urban Development (DPUD) on several occasions regarding the proposed Ellen Brook estate's impact on State Forest No. 65 (Gnangara). As the vested body the Commission asked DPUD to keep it informed of key issues and decisions arising from future planning; and
- (c) the Commission approved the excision of portion of State Forest No. 7 for inclusion in Reserve 6203 (nature conservation).

### **Mining tenements**

The Commission noted that it had no legal standing under the Mining Act for mining tenement application referrals. The Commission will pursue the matter with the Department of Mines and in the meantime agreed on an internal referral process with CALM's Environmental Protection Branch. Specific referrals were as follows;

- (a) exploration by Western Collieries for coal in the proposed Goonac Conservation Park and the Goonac and Muja Management Priority Areas;
- (b) exploration by Cable Sands in State Forest No.s 35, 36, 39, 40, and 58 and Timber Reserve 185/25; and
- (c) exploration by Westralian Sands in State Forest No.s 32, 58 and 63.

### **Other landuse issues**

The Commission approved the release for public comment (February 1992) of the draft Management Strategies for the South-West Forests of Western Australia.

The Commission continued to receive briefings on CALM's preparation of the Draft Nature Conservation Strategy and Proposals to Meet Ministerial Conditions on the approved 1987 Regional Plans and WACAP ERMP.

As part of the continuing process to involve the community in forest reviews the Commission in association with the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and CALM conducted four seminars and workshops during the year on Road, River and Stream Zones in South West Forests (14.7.91), Endangered Species Conservation (12.9.91), Multiple Use Management of State forests (20.9.91), and the draft nature conservation and forest management strategies (10.4.92).

The Commission was briefed on Nyungar activities on Crown lands and provided advice to CALM on hunting zones, commercial enterprises and camping in State forest.

The Commission endorsed CALM negotiations for a caravan park lease in State forest at Dwellingup.

## **National Estate**

The Commission continued to receive briefings on the report of National Estate Values in the Southern Forest Region of South West Western Australia.

## **Other matters**

The Commission provided comments and/or endorsed CALM Policy Statements concerning Conservation of threatened flora in the wild (No 9), Community involvement (No. 15), Captive breeding and cultivation of threatened species and their re-establishment or translocation in the wild (No. 29), Conservation of threatened and specially protected fauna in the wild (No. 33), Road management (No. 40) and Beekeeping on public land (No. 41).

The Commission was briefed and provided comments to CALM on proposed amendments to draft integrated land management regulations 1.5, 1.7, 2.5, 2.19, 2.26, 2.28 and 2.30.

The Commission continued to receive briefings on the Resource Assessment Commission's Inquiry into Forests and the Timber Industry.