



# ANNUAL REPORT

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**1 July 1992 - 30 June 1993**

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Hon Kevin Minson  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Dear Mr Minson

In accordance with Section 31(1) of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984, I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Land and Forest Commission for the year ending 30 June 1993.

Yours sincerely

  
Hon Barry Hodge  
CHAIRMAN

4 November 1993

## **CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW**

In February 1992, I released for public comment draft Management Strategies for the South-West Forests of Western Australia.

In the preparation of the draft the LFC hosted 3 major public workshops to discuss key elements of the forest strategy. These were 'Jarrah Forest Conservation Values', 'Road River and Stream Zones' and 'Multiple Use Management'.

Briefings and consultations were provided to more than forty community, industry and government organisations, as part of the public participation process. Over 1800 public submissions were received, summarised and forwarded to the Environmental Protection Authority.

The EPA reviewed the drafts with the assistance of a Technical Advisory Panel and a contracted forestry expert, Dr Ken Shepherd, and produced their report in October 1992. A number of appeals were lodged on the report and the Minister appointed an Appeals Committee which reported in late December, enabling the Minister to set conditions on implementation of the proposals on 24 December 1992.

The draft management plan was not able to be finalised, however, as one of the conditions required further investigation by an expert committee as to what the appropriate jarrah yield levels should be.

That Committee was formed and duly reported by 30 June 1993, enabling the Minister to complete the outstanding condition allowing the LFC to prepare the final management plan for his approval. Finalisation has however, been further delayed by a writ on the Lands and Forest Commission seeking to prevent completion of the plan.

During the year much time was spent on issues related to mining tenements. One meeting was devoted wholly to discussion on the approval process for exploration and prospecting licences affecting State forest and timber reserves. The Commission endorsed the new administrative arrangements for the granting of exploration and prospecting licences negotiated by CALM and the Department of Minerals and Energy. The Commission still considers that the Mining Act should be amended to provide for consultation with this Commission when mining tenements impinge on State forest or timber reserve; a position rejected by the Department of Minerals and Energy. However, administrative procedures established with CALM ensure that Lands and Forest Commission recommendations are considered.

I have mentioned in a number of previous annual reports that the Commission would benefit from having its own annual budget and a small staff allocated to it. At present the Commission is totally reliant upon the goodwill and co-operation of CALM for the provision of basic services.

The Commission would like to record its appreciation to the Department of CALM for the provision of resources, staff and office facilities, and in particular to the Environmental Protection Branch for its assistance during the past year.

## **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 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; and

- 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 reappointment 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 report year the Commission met on five occasions. One meeting was held jointly with the Forest Production Council. In addition the members of the Commission attended part of meeting No. 88 of the NPNCA on 9 October 1992. Meetings were conducted at the Corporate Executive Office, Department of Conservation and Land Management at Crawley.

Meetings were held on 30 July 1992, 24 September 1992, 7 November 1992 (joint meeting with FPC), 3 December 1992 and 18 February 1993.

## **BUSINESS OF THE COMMISSION**

### **Management Plans**

A draft management plan is being prepared for Dryandra State forest. At the joint meeting with the NPNCA the Chairman advised that the Commission would be agreeable to most of Dryandra State forest becoming either national park or conservation park with vesting in the NPNCA. However, the section that supports the small mallet industry should be retained as State forest. This will be proposed in the draft plan.

The Goldfields Region Management Plan is being finalised.

### **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.

The area of State forest, as at 30 June 1993, was 1 748 325ha, an increase of 767ha during the year. The major addition was 1536ha to the State forest No. 41 in the Walpole area, while the major decrease was a 875ha excision from State forest No. 39 near Pemberton for the creation of Dave Evans National Park.

The area of timber reserves, as at 30 June 1993, was 141 896ha, a decrease of 37ha during the year. The decrease was mainly due to cancellation of a timber reserve near Manjimup, which resulted from a land exchange.

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 agreed to the excision of 47ha from State forests No. 2 and No. 12 at Ludlow to the Main Roads Department for a mineral sands haul route;
- b) the Commission approved excision of 90ha of State forest No. 4 to the State Energy Commission to form part of the Collie power station site;
- c) the Commission approved excision of a 58ha portion of State forest No. 36 and a 3ha portion of Timber reserve No. 97/25 (both are west of Manjimup) in exchange for Nelson location 5970 and parts of Nelson locations 8980 and 9781;
- d) the Commission approved excision of timber reserve No. 94/25 of 58ha at Jardee in exchange for Nelson location 1369 near Wheatley; and
- e) the Commission agreed to excision of 8ha of State forest No. 25 near Preston in exchange for part of Nelson location 3346.

### **Mining tenements**

CALM briefed the Commission on the approval process for Exploration and Prospecting licenses affecting State forest and timber reserves.

The Chairman wrote to the Director General of the Department of Minerals and Energy, requesting that consideration be given to amending Section 24(6)(b) of the Mining Act, to provide for consultation with the Lands and Forest Commission, when mining tenements impinge on State forest or timber reserve. The Director General declined the request.

CALM's Environmental Protection Branch continued to refer mining tenement proposals to the Commission, including the following;

- a) application for mining leases by Boral Resources Ltd, over part of Gnangara plantation;
- b) application for a mining lease by RGC Mineral Sands Ltd over part of Ludlow plantation; and
- c) a request for continued access to State forest at Witchcliffe by Augusta-Margaret River Shire for basic raw materials.

### **Other landuse issues**

The Commission continued to receive briefings on CALM's preparation of the draft Management Strategies for the South-West Forests of Western Australia, the draft Nature Conservation Strategy and Proposals to Meet Ministerial Conditions on the approved 1987 Regional Plans and WACAP ERMP.

The Commission was also briefed on the Environmental Protection Authority's Report (Bulletin 652) on proposals to amend the 1987 Forest Management plans and Timber Strategy and Proposals to Meet Environmental Conditions on the Regional Plans and the WACAP ERMP.

### **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.

### **State forest purpose maps**

As a component of the August 1991 amendments to the CALM Act, a transitional clause 60A was included which required the Minister to gazette the purposes of State forests. After discussions with the Ministry of Justice it was decided to prepare a map for each State forest showing purposes. The required maps have been prepared for signature by the Chairman of the Lands and Forests Commission and the Executive Director of CALM.

**Other Matters**

The Commission provided comments and/or endorsed CALM Policy Statements concerning Environmental monitoring of pesticides, radio communications facilities, external funds and defining tenure boundaries.

The Commission advised the Minister for the Environment of its concern regarding Cabinet's rejection of a recommendation that basic raw materials royalty payments be paid into the CALM Tree Trust Fund for purchase of lands to replace forest values forgone.