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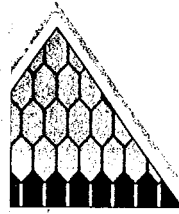
JOURNAL

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ANNUAL REPORT (WESTERN
AUSTRALIA, LANDS AND FOREST
COMMISSION)

(1 JULY 1995 - 30 JUNE 1996)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION



LANDS AND FOREST

COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1995 - 30 June 1996

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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.

Hackett Drive, Crawley, Western Australia 6009. Tel (09) 386 8811, Fax (09) 386 1578

HON MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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 Lands and Forest Commission for the year ending 30 June 1996

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leon Watt', written in a cursive style.

Leon Watt
CHAIRMAN

10 October 1996

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

In addition to the normal matters brought to the Commission for consideration, such as applications for exploration and mining leases, vesting and boundary adjustments, much of the year under review has been devoted to implementing a structured method of monitoring the implementation of management plans.

The Commission receives regular briefings and reports from senior CALM staff and a process has been established to monitor the progress of undertakings given in the Forest Management Plan 1994-2003.

Proposed legislative changes referred to in last year's report have not yet been introduced into Parliament, and membership therefore remains unchanged.

The protracted negotiations over a Regional Forest Agreement between the Department, on behalf of the State, and the Commonwealth continue, and the Commission has continued to receive regular briefings on those negotiations and how they impact on the Forest Management Plan.

The Commission is most appreciative of the assistance given by officers of the Department of Conservation & Land Management, especially Dr Paul Biggs, in providing secretarial assistance, technical advice and briefings on a range of issues throughout the 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 appointment of Mr Leon Watt (Chairman), Mr Pat McNamara (Deputy Chairman) and Dr S R Shea (ex-officio member) to the Lands and Forest Commission for a three year term commencing 22 November 1994.

Dr F H McKinnell and Mr D J Keene are deputies for the Executive Director.

MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

During the report year the Commission met on seven occasions:

- 58 27 July 1995,
- 59 15 November 1995
- 60 29 January 1996
- 61 12 April 1996
- 62 10 May 1996
- 63 11 June 1996
- 64 26 June 1996

BUSINESS OF THE COMMISSION

Management Plans

No new management plans for land vested in the Commission were prepared during the year.

The Commission monitored the implementation of the Forest Management Plan 1994-2003 through a series of briefings during the year and through liaison with the Department's internal Management Audit Unit. A monitoring table was compiled to assist the orderly collation of information. Detailed reports were received on progress with changes to land tenure and development of planning and information systems which report on both planning and implementation of silvicultural objectives and management of areas of special significance in multiple use forest.

Summaries of tenure, harvesting and log supply are provided in the Department's annual report.

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 considers any cancellation, addition or changes of purpose or boundary for its estate.

The area of State forest, as at 30 June 1996, was 1,724,954 hectares, an increase of 73 hectares during the year.

The area of timber reserves, as at 30 June 1996 was 141,487 hectares, no change from the previous year.

No proposals for excision of State Forest were received during the year.

Mining tenements

The Commission noted a total of 52 mining tenement proposals processed by CALM's Environmental Protection Branch in accordance with approved guidelines (Appendix A). Proposals which were potentially environmentally sensitive were examined in more detail before recommending approval or objection:

- Exploration licence for Westralian Sands.
- Applications for mining leases 15/726, 70/905&706, 25/133 70/888, 70/640, 70/928, 70/1635.

The Commission also received extensive briefings on the RGC Wetlands which have been developed on a rehabilitated mine site near Capel and discussed issues related to the future management of the wetlands.

Temporary Control Areas

Timber harvesting and associated protests continued in Sharpe Block during the year, and following advice from CALM and the Police Department, the Commission recommended the continued use of Temporary Control Areas (Numbers 8 [11/8/95 - 8/11/95] and 9 [8/11/95 - 5/2/96]) for the safety of the public, officers and timber workers in that area.

Other Matters

The Commission was briefed on:

- Continuing court cases in Kerr/Hester, Jane and Sharpe Blocks
- Negotiations with the Commonwealth over the Deferred Forest Assessment and Regional Forest Agreement.
- Swan Avon Integrated Catchment Management
- The Department's Management Audit Unit
- State Salinity Strategy
- Hardwood Information and Planning System
- Fox control through Western Shield
- Recovery Plan for Orange bellied and white bellied frogs.

The Commission received a briefing from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the Environmental Protection (South West Agricultural Zone Wetlands) Policy and made detailed submissions to both the DEP and the Hon Minister for the Environment supporting the policy and seeking further consultation on the process of nominating wetlands for land vested in the Commission.

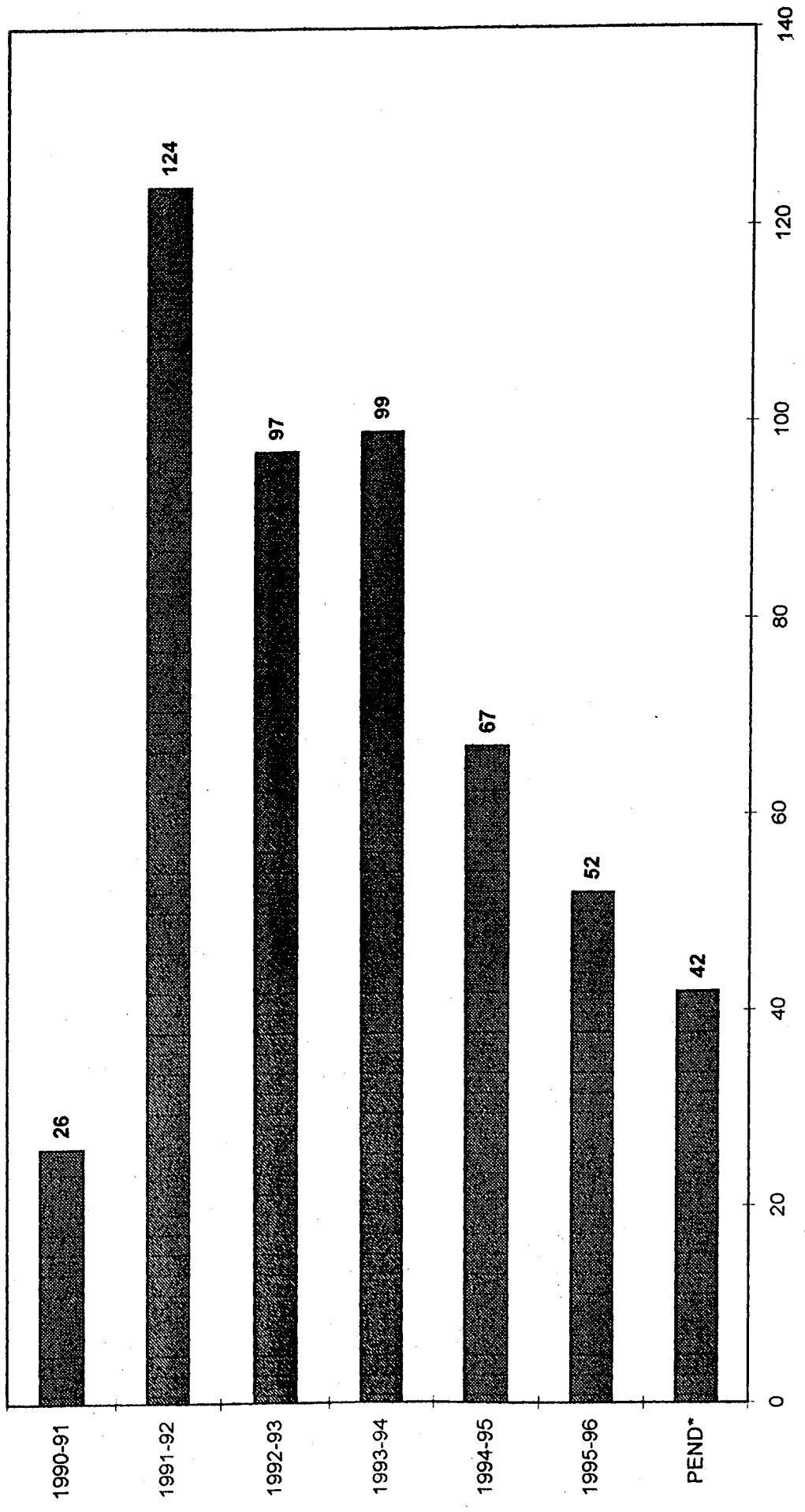
The Commission also commented on the proposed EPP for the Swan & Canning catchments.

Finances

Costs incurred by or for the Commission are controlled and monitored by the Department of Conservation & Land Management. Direct expenditure for the financial year was \$5189.32, covering the Chairman's allowances, meeting fees and travel costs.

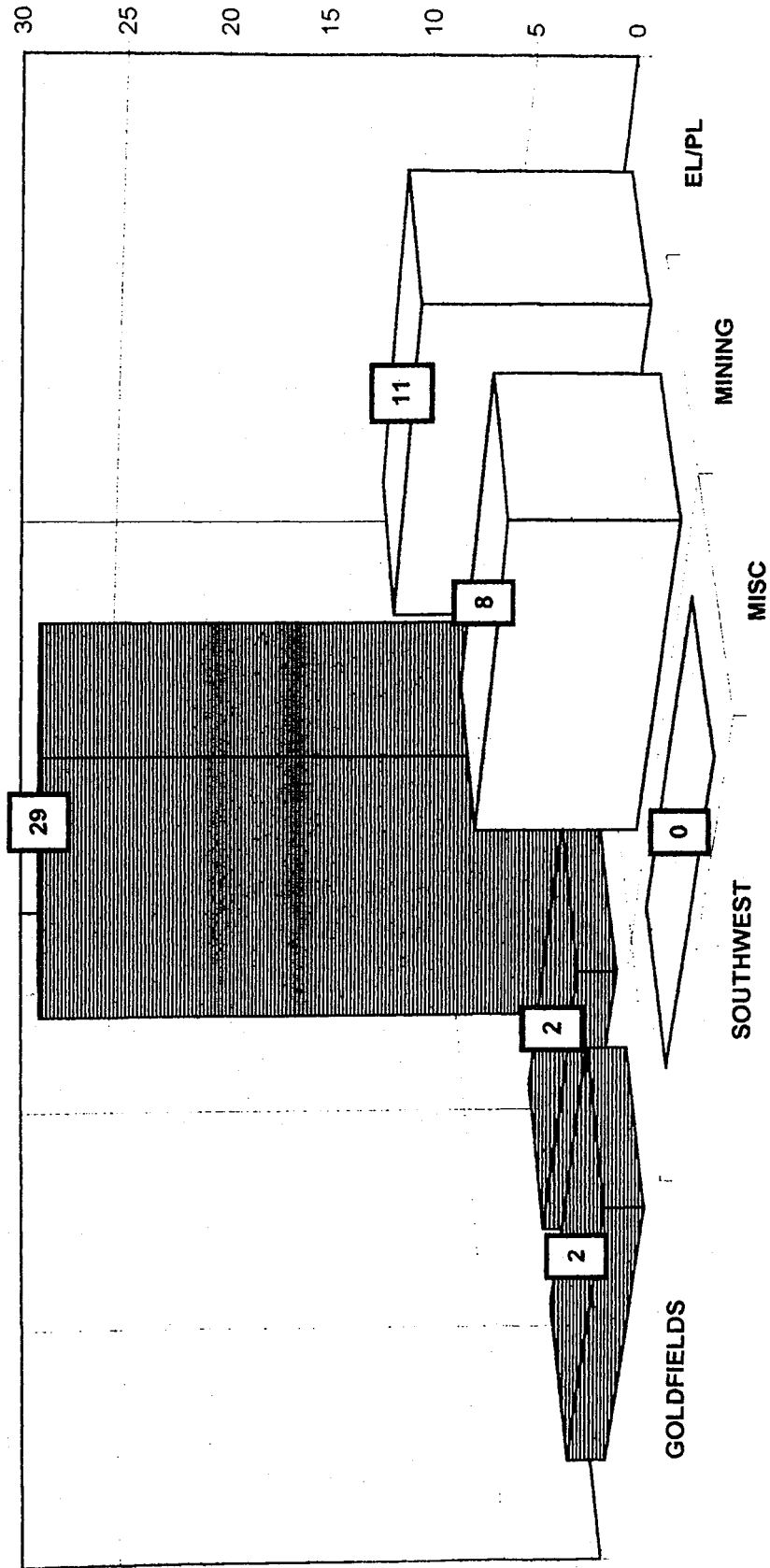
Appendix A

TOTALS - TENEMENTS PROCESSED AND PENDING FOR LAND VESTED LFC 23 MAY 1996

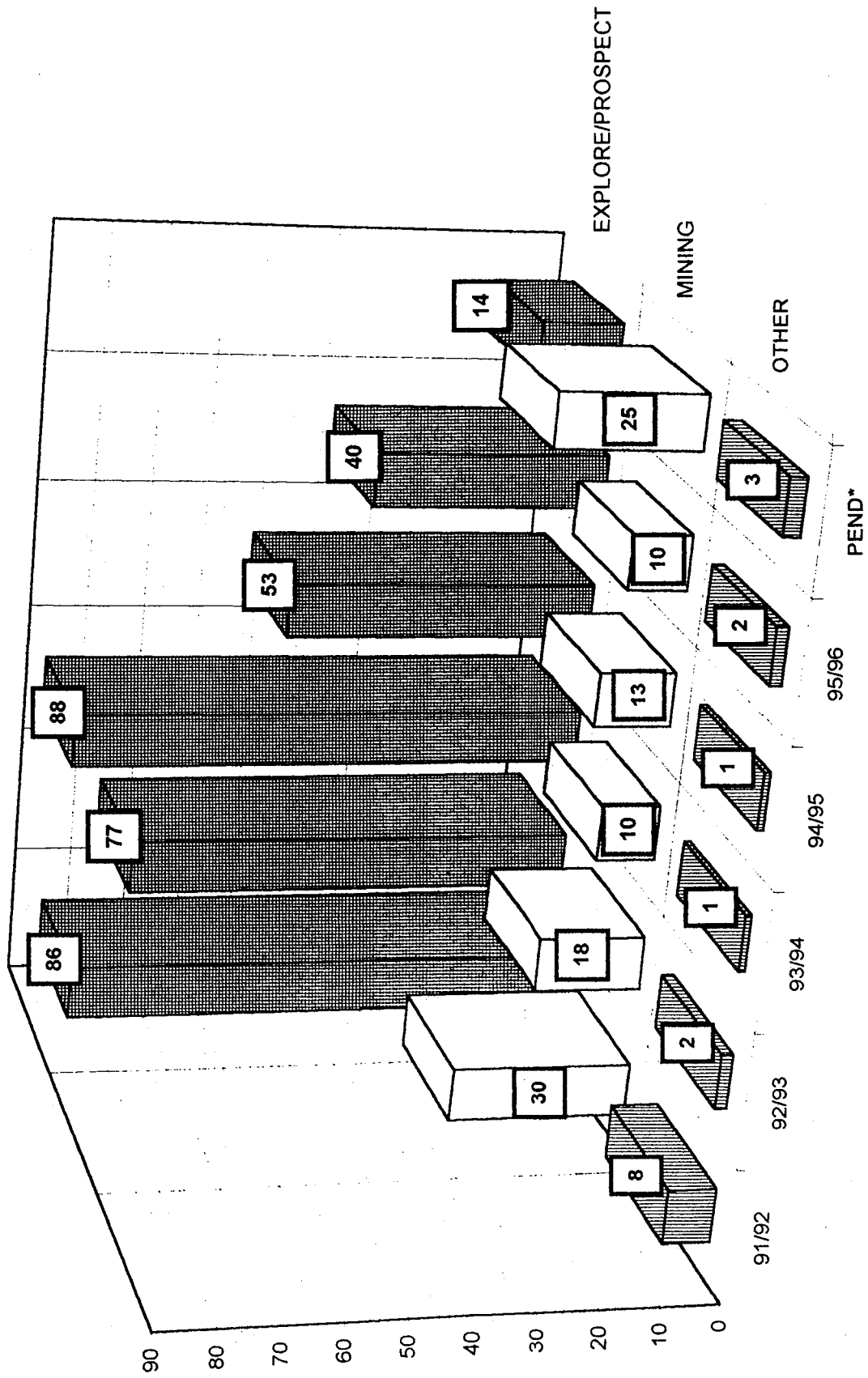


*21 of these applications are on hold and 4 have been returned to DOME for more information.

TENEMENTS PROCESSED FOR LAND VESTED LFC, SOUTHWEST - GOLDFIELDS 1995-96



TENEMENTS PROCESSED AND PENDING FOR LAND VESTED LFC 23 MAY 1996



* 21 of these pending applications are on hold, and 4 have been returned to DOME for more information.