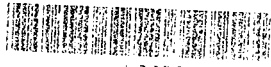


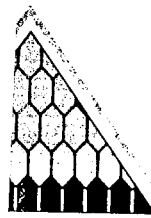
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JOURNAL

**ANNUAL REPORT (WESTERN
AUSTRALIA, LANDS AND FOREST
COMMISSION)**
(1996-1997) & (1997-1998)



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
**LANDS AND FOREST
COMMISSION**

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1996 - 30 June 1997

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

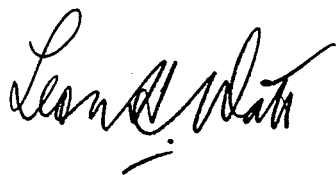
ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO

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 1997.

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

Leon Watt
CHAIRMAN

26 November 1997

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

During the year in review, the Commission received regular briefings and reports from senior CALM staff on the progress and monitoring of the implementation of the Forest Management Plan.

Proposed legislative changes referred to in previous reports have not yet been introduced into Parliament, and membership therefore remains unchanged.

The negotiations over the Regional Forest Agreement between the Department, on behalf of the State, and the Commonwealth continued, and the Commission received regular briefings on progress and possible impacts on the Forest Management Plan.

The Commission also received briefing on implementation of the State Salinity Strategy and is represented on the State Salinity Council by the Chairman.

Other matters brought to the Commission for consideration included applications for exploration and mining leases, vesting and boundary adjustments.

The Commission is most appreciative of the assistance given by officers of the Department of Conservation & Land Management 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 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 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 year in review the Commission met on nine occasions:

Meeting	Date
65	21 August 1996
66	26 September 1996
67	29 October 1996
68	14 November 1996
69	7 February 1997
70	16 April 1997
71	13 May 1997
72	29 May 1997
73	27 June 1997

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 through a series of briefings during the year and through liaison with the Department's internal Management Audit Unit. Development continued on the monitoring table compiled to assist the orderly collation of information. Detailed reports were received on progress with changes to land tenure.

The Serpentine National Park Draft Management Plan was referred to the Commission for comment by the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.

Issues relating to leased occupation and illegal use of State forests were considered by the Commission.

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 1997, was 1,725,036 hectares, an increase of 82 hectares over the previous year.

The area of timber reserves, as at 30 June 1997 was 141,550 hectares, an increase of 63 hectares over the previous year.

Mining tenements

The Commission noted a total of 57 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:

- ML 15/631 in Kangaroo Timber Reserve,
- ML 15/889, 890, 898, 917, 919, 965 in Kangaroo Hills Timber Reserve,
- Extended basement operation at Boddington Gold Mine,
- ML 15/990 in Kangaroo Hills Timber Reserve,
- Prospecting Licence Calloli 19211.

Temporary Control Areas

No temporary control areas were classified during the year in review.

Timber harvesting and associated operations in Giblett Block were the subject of protest activity during the year. Harvesting operations ceased whilst protesters remained in the area. Following advice from CALM and the Police Department, the Commission recommended to the Minister the classification of a temporary control area for reasons of public safety.

Other Matters

The Commission was also briefed on:

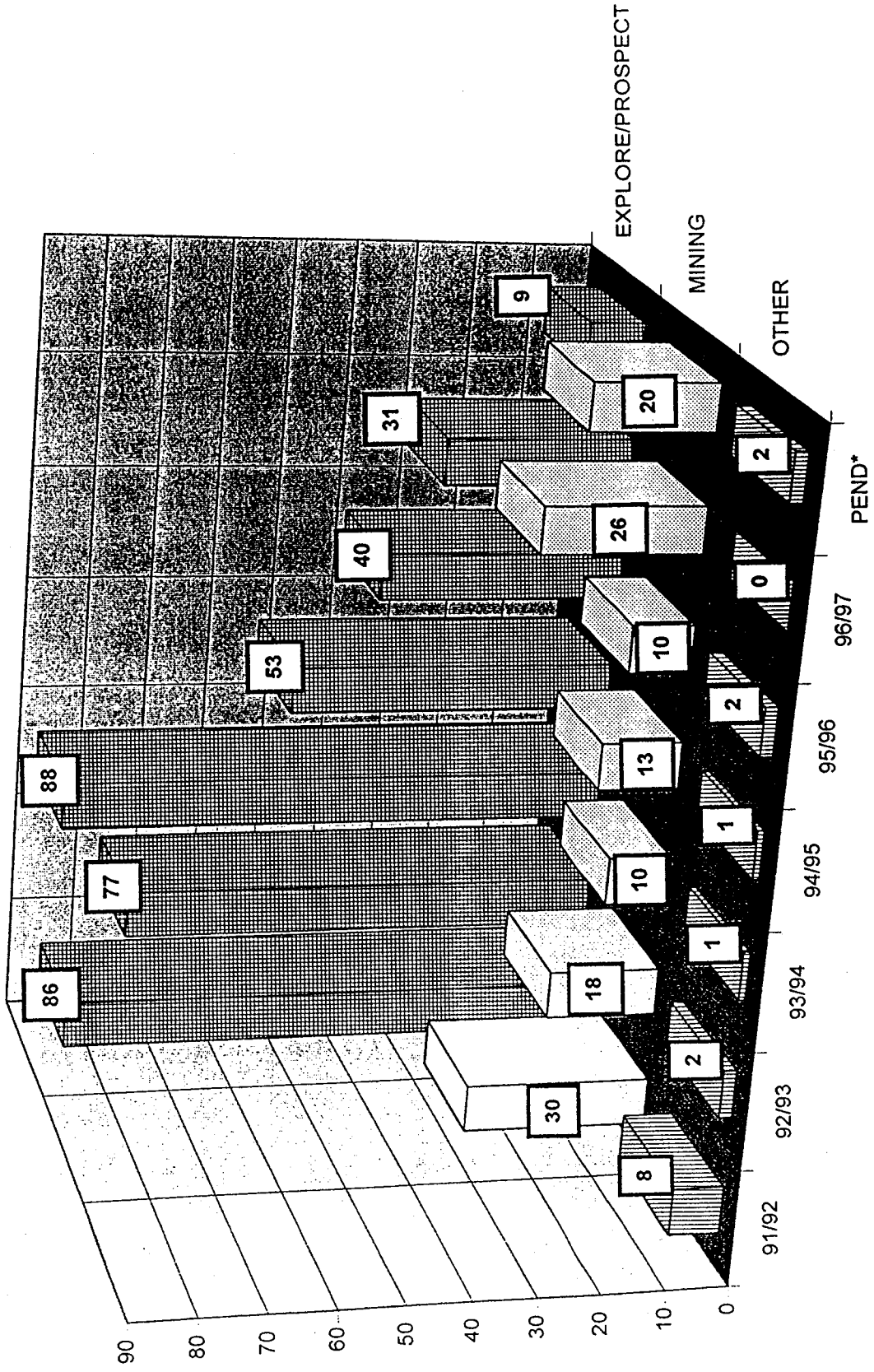
- Activities in the plantations area
- Forest management initiatives
- The Regional Forest Agreement
- The State Salinity Strategy

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 \$4,632, covering the Chairman's allowances, meeting fees and travel costs. Additional expenditure of around \$25,000 was incurred for executive support.

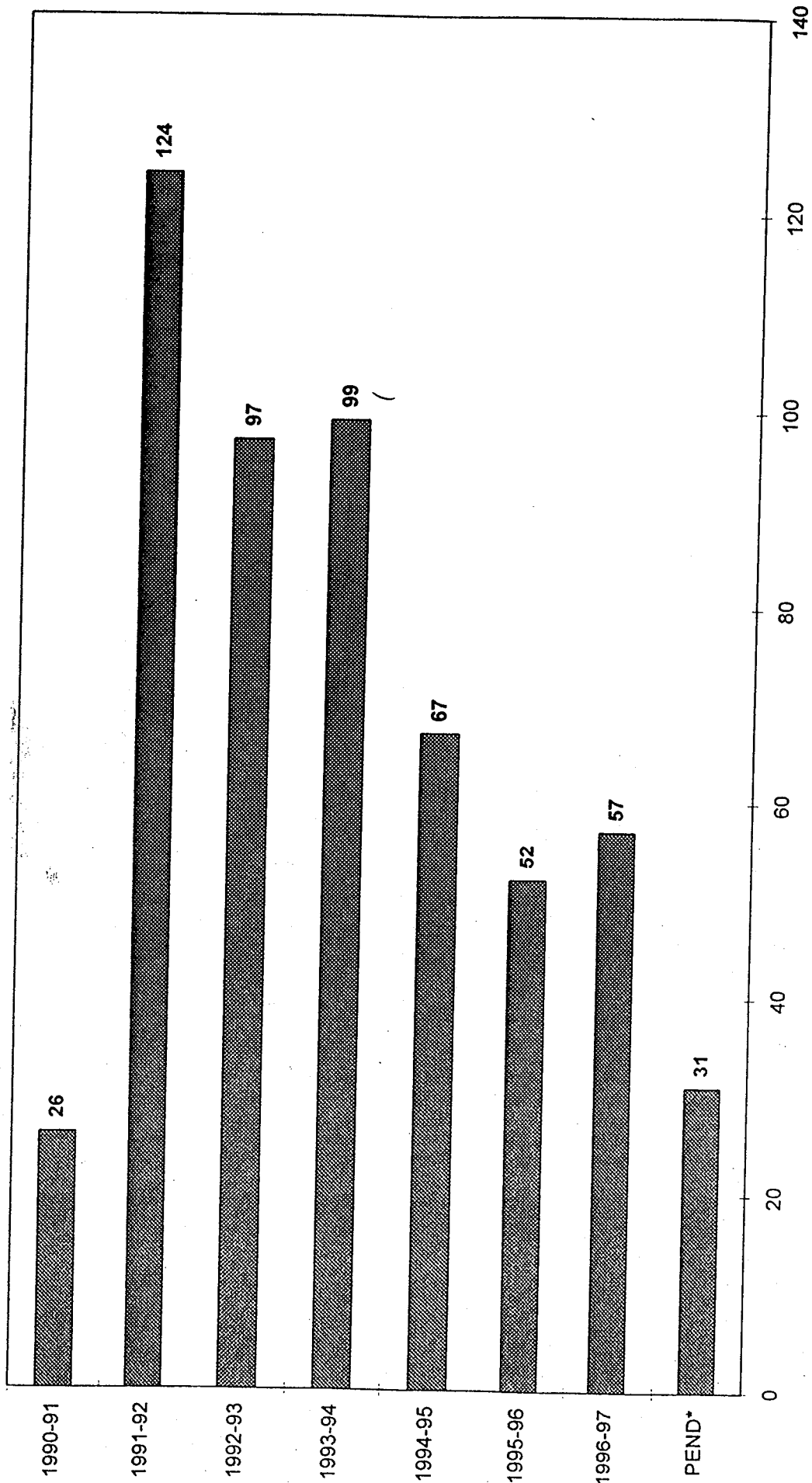
Appendix A

TENEMENTS PROCESSED AND PENDING FOR LAND VESTED LFC 29 MAY 1997



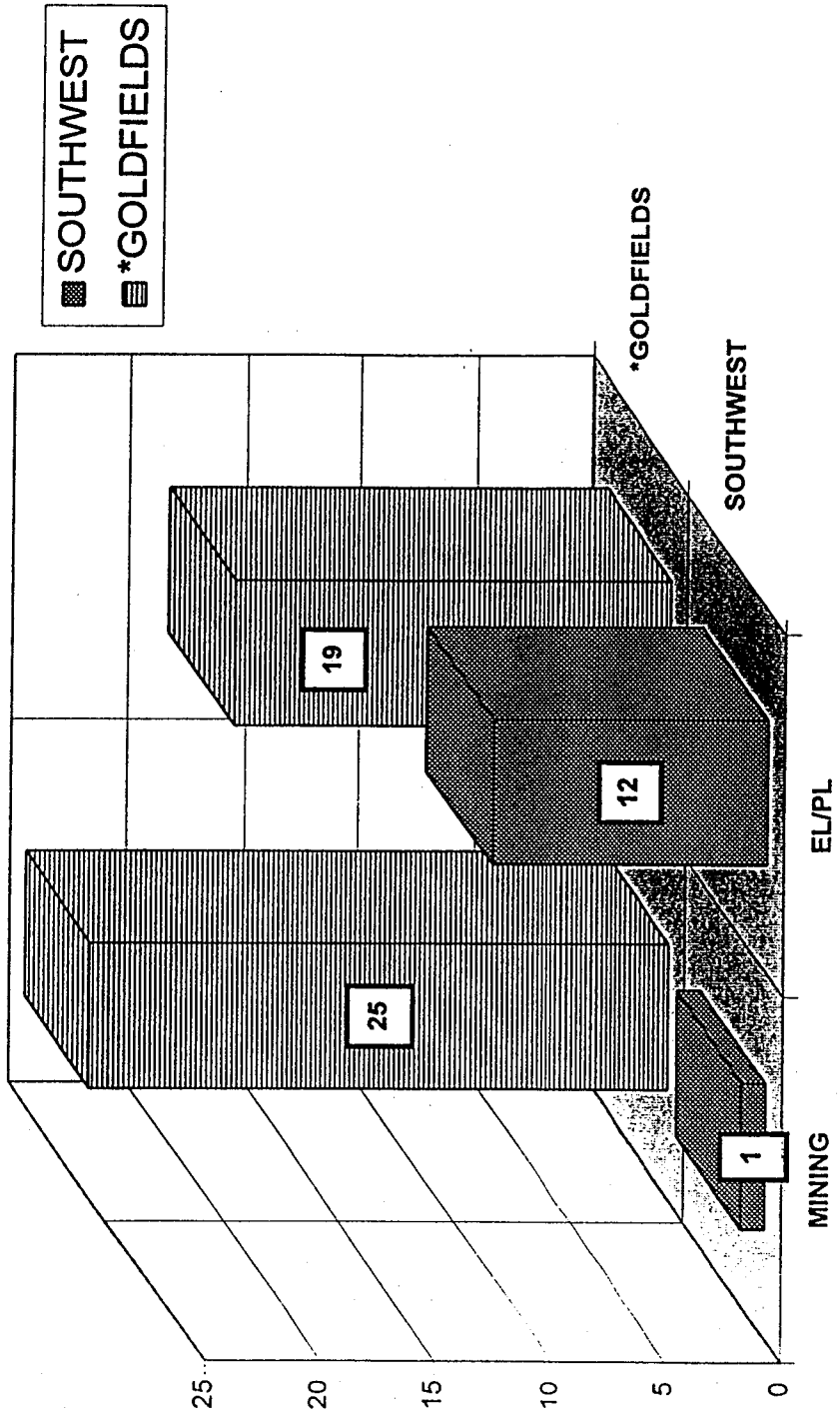
10 of these pending applications are on hold, and 4 have been returned to DOME for more information.

TOTALS - TENEMENTS PROCESSED AND PENDING FOR LAND VESTED LFC 29 MAY 1997



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

TENEMENTS PROCESSED FOR LAND VESTED LFC, SOUTHWEST - GOLDFIELDS 1996-97



* includes CALM Goldfields Region and Esperance District