



ANNUAL REPORT


1 July 1997 - 30 June 1998

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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The Secretary, Lands and Forest Commission, Department of Conservation and Land Management, PO Box 104, Como 6132, Western Australia.
Tel (08) 9442 0300, Fax (08) 9389 8603
Hackett Drive, Crawley, Western Australia 6009. Tel (08) 9389 8600, Fax (08) 9389 8603

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 1998.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Leon Watt', written in dark ink.

Leon Watt
CHAIRMAN

27 November 1998

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. The Commission has also requested advice from CALM's Management Audit Branch regarding action taken to implement the various recommendations made in previous reports and this is now being done on a regular basis.

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 State and the Commonwealth continued, and the Commission received regular briefings on aspects of the process and possible impacts on the Forest Management Plan.

As Chairman, at the request of the Environmental Protection Authority, I have participated in a committee which has as its principal function the verification of CALM's compliance with the Ministerial Conditions imposed in conjunction with the Forest Management Plan 1994-2003. The committee's report to the EPA should be completed in the near future.

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.

During the year, the Governor approved the reappointment of Mr Leon Watt (Chairman) and Mr Pat McNamara (Deputy Chairman) to the Lands and Forest Commission for a term concluding on 31 October 1999.

Dr S R Shea, as the Executive Director of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, is the ex-officio member of the Commission. 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
74	10 July 1997
75	18 September 1997
76	10 November 1997
77	8 December 1997
78	12 December 1997
79	8 January 1998
80	12 February 1998
81	12 March 1998
82	13 May 1998

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. The following audits had been completed: 97_06 Coupe Management - Native Forest Coupes; 98_02 Plantations Code of Practice - Compliance with Guidelines; 98_07 Plantations Group - Coupe Management and Environmental Protection in Harvesting; 98_08 Plantations Group Coupe Planning and Monitoring for Harvesting; 98_10 Management of Bauxite Mining on CALM Land; 98_11 Science and Information Division Biodiversity Conservation Audit; 98_13 Plantation Group Sharefarming Business Unit; 98_15 Risk Management in Timber Harvesting.

The Commission was briefed on CALM's preparation and submission to the Environmental Protection Authority of the 1997 Progress and Compliance Report on the implementation of the Forest Management Plan 1994-2003.

Detailed reports were received on progress with changes to land tenure.

Issues relating to leased occupation 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 1998, was 1,727,514 hectares, an increase of 2,478 hectares over the previous year.

The area of timber reserves, as at 30 June 1998 was 141,550 hectares, no change from the previous year.

Mining tenements

The Commission noted a total of 59 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:

- Notice of Intent - Wattle Prospect;
- ML 70/18, 19, 30, 31, 33-36, 545 and 548 - Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd;
- Exploration Licence 70/1965 - Hedges Gold; and
- Exploration proposal for Ludlow State Forest - RGC.

Temporary Control Areas

Two temporary control areas were classified during the year in review. Temporary Control Area No.1 of 1998 was classified over an area of land in State forest No.58 for a period of 90 days from 16 January 1998. Temporary control area No.2 of 1998 was classified over the same area of land for a period of 46 days from 16 April 1998.

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:

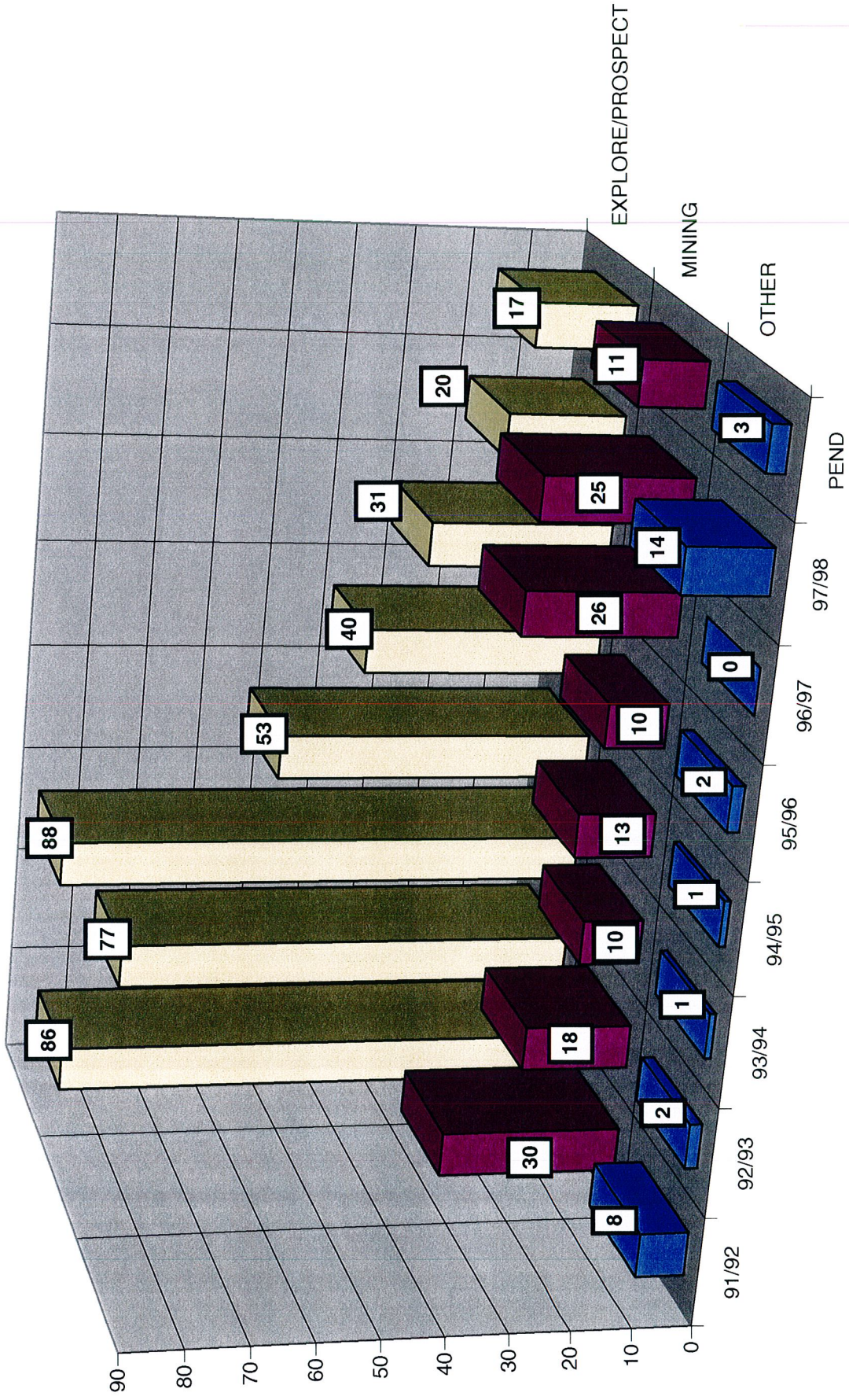
- National Competition Policy;
- Forest management initiatives, including the Bibbulmun Track Project and the Return to Dryandra Project; and
- The Assessment of Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management in the South-West Forest Region of Western Australia.

Finances

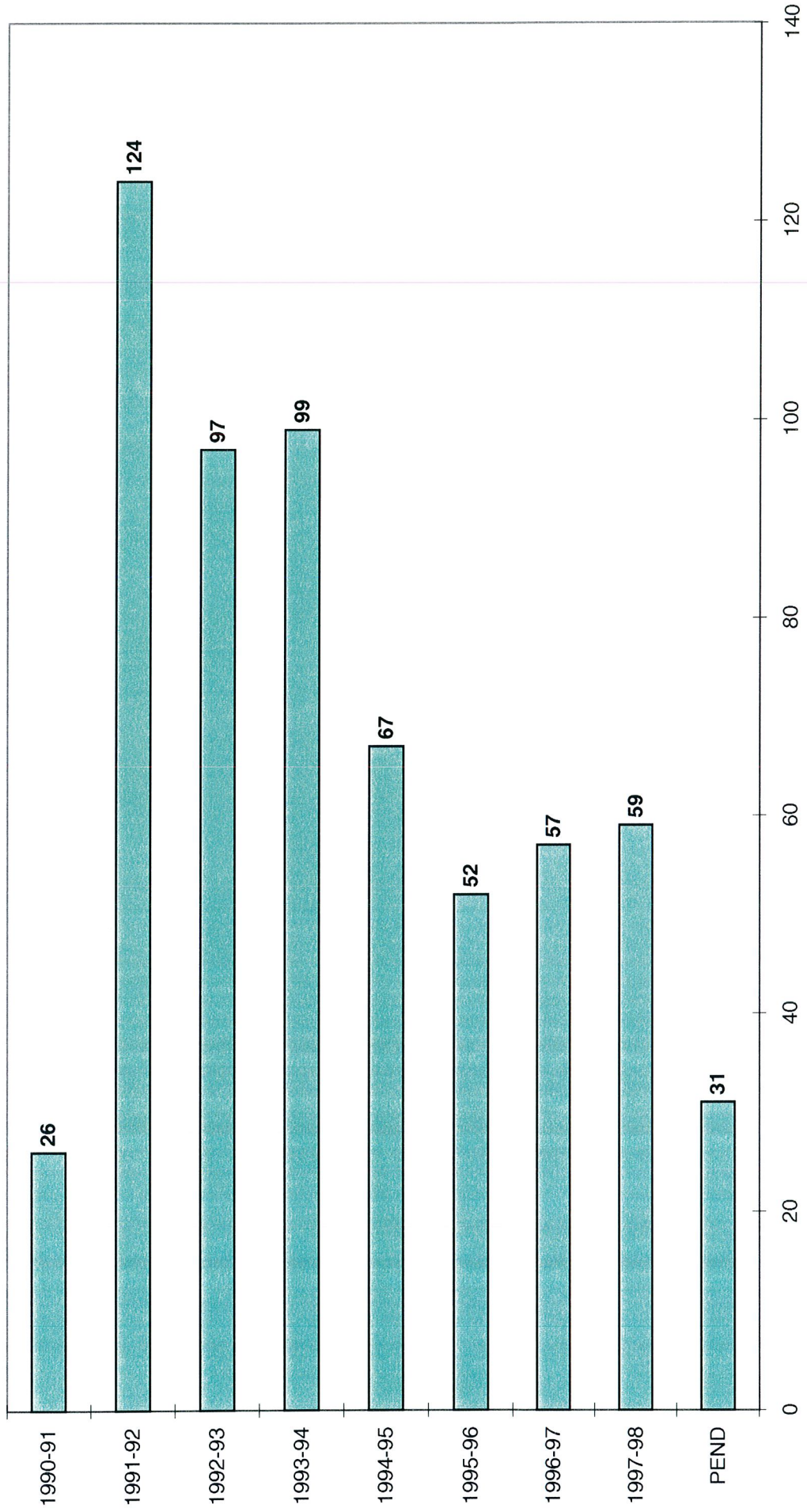
Costs incurred by or for the Commission are controlled and monitored by the Department of Conservation & Land Management. Direct expenditure for the financial year was \$13, 791.65, covering the Chairman's and Deputy Chairman's allowances, meeting fees and travel costs. Additional expenditure of around \$25,000 was incurred for executive support.

Appendix A

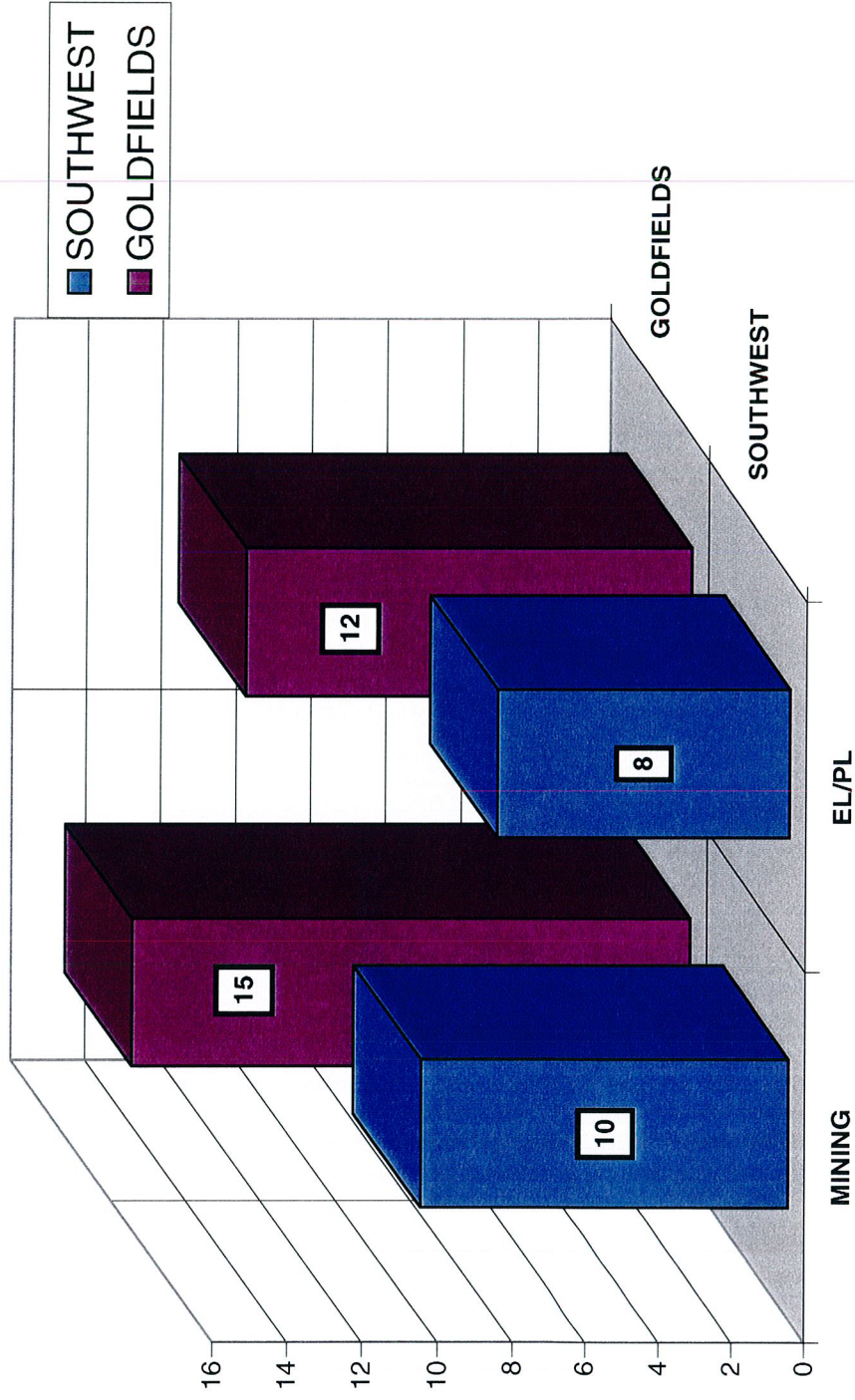
TENEMENTS PROCESSED AND PENDING FOR LAND VESTED LFC 1997/98



TENEMENTS PROCESSED AND PENDING FOR LAND VESTED LFC 1997/98



TENEMENTS PROCESSED FOR LAND VESTED LFC, SOUTHWEST - GOLDFIELDS 1997-98



* includes CALM Goldfields Region and Esperance District