



# ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1991 - 30 June 1992

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO  
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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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The Forest Production Council continues to provide advice to the Department of Conservation and Land Management on key forest and timber industry issues. I record my appreciation for such advice on overseas and local hardwood pricing policies and on Commonwealth Resource Security legislation.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL

The Forest Production Council was established under Section 24 of the Conservation and Land Management Act, 1984.

### FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Functions of the Council are determined by Section 25 of the CALM Act, 1984. The functions are to advise the Minister:

- (a) generally on matters pertaining to production from State forest and timber reserves;
- (b) on the improvement of -
  - (i) such production in ways consistent with the maintenance of other forest values; and
  - (ii) the use, processing and marketing of forest produce;
- (c) on the need for, and form of, research to achieve or promote the objectives described in section 56(1)(a) and (b);
- (d) on the contents of proposed management plans for State forest and timber reserves.

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Conservation and Land Management Amendment Act No. 20 of 1991 revised S26(b) of the principal Act (1984) to provide for a 12 tripartite member Council by Ministerial appointment. Proposals to amend the membership of the Council have been put to the Minister for the Environment.

Membership of the present Council is determined by Section 26 of the CALM Act, 1984 and comprises:

- (a) Two ex-officio members being;
  - (i) Dr S Shea, Executive Director (Chairman of the Council);
  - (ii) Mr D Keene, Director of Forests (Deputy Chairman of the Council);  
and

- (b) 12 persons appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister of whom -
- (i) one shall be a person who is a member of the Water Resources Council established by the Western Australian Water Resources Council Act 1982. This position is currently vacant and will be filled subject to the CALM Amendment Act.
  - (ii) seven shall be representative of timber industries or industries which are significant users of timber or timber products (Messrs A Gosatti, R Bunning, G Shepherd, A Wheatley, M Bajada). Replacements will be subject to the CALM Amendment Act;
  - (iii) one shall be representative of primary producers, not coming within sub-paragraph (ii), associated with forests (Mr R Pollard, apiarist);
  - (iv) one shall be representative of bodies of persons the objects of which, or the members of which by reason of their profession, are concerned in the management of forests (Mr D Spriggins);
  - (v) one shall be representative of country interests and be a person with special skill or experience relevant to the functions of the Council. This position is currently vacant and will be filled subject to the CALM Amendment Act.
  - (vi) one person shall be having special experience in commercial forestry production (Mr P McNamara);

## **FUNDING OF COUNCIL**

All Council financial expenditure and administrative support is met by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

## **MEETINGS OF COUNCIL**

During the reporting year Council met on two occasions. Meetings were conducted at the Executive Office, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Crawley. Meetings were held on 7 August 1991; and follow on 8 May 1992.

## **BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

### **Pricing of local timber versus imported timber**

Council discussed with local buyers, manufactures and importers the issue that local hardwood prices were artificially depressed due to low royalties charged by the Government. Cost comparisons taking account of delivery, recovery rate, milling and distribution showed negligible differences between the price in Perth of overseas hardwoods and local hardwoods.

### **Resources Assessment Commission Draft Report**

Council discussed the draft Resource Assessment Commission's Forest and Timber Inquiry report (July 1991). There was concern at the errors, omissions and misrepresentations in it particularly that relating to non-sustained yield wood harvesting by Australian forest agencies. The Inquiry's final report was released in March 1992. The Commission reversed its earlier opinion by bringing down a

principal finding that forest agencies do have in place sustained yield management strategies for wood production.

### **Other Federal Inquiries**

Council was briefed on the Reports from the Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Party and the National Plantation Afforestation Committee.

### **Resource Security Legislation**

A special meeting of the Council was convened to discuss the Commonwealth Resource Security legislation. The following considerations were put *inter alia* to the Minister for the Environment;

- 1 that the Council noted with disappointment that the National based resource security legislation was defeated in the Senate; and
- 2 that Government initiatives for a pulp mill in Western Australia and the release by the Department of Conservation and Land Management in February 1992 of draft Management Strategies for the South-West Forests of Western Australia would be substantially enhanced by some form of Commonwealth/State resource security.

### **Management Strategies for the South-West Forests of Western Australia**

Council received informal briefings throughout the year.