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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

HON MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In accordance with Section 31 of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984, I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament the report on the proceedings of the Forest Production Council for the year ending 30 June 1998.

Syd Shea

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

27 November 1998

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Forest Production Council provides advice to the Minister and the Department of Conservation and Land Management on key forest and timber industry issues. I record my appreciation for advice received from individual members of the Council as requested during the year.

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;
- on the need for, and form of, research to achieve or promote the objectives described in section 56(1)(a) and (b); and
- d) on the contents of proposed management plans so far as they relate to timber production from State forest and timber reserves.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Conservation and Land Management Amendment Act No. 20 of 1991 revised Section 26(b) of the principal Act (1984) to provide for a 14 member Council by Ministerial appointment. Membership of the present comprises of:

- (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) four shall be representative of timber industries or industries which are significant users of timber or timber products and one of these shall be from a timber mill employing less than 10 people (Current representatives under the previous provisions of the Act include Messrs A Gosatti, , G Shepherd, A Wheatley, M Bajada). Replacements will be subject to the amended CALM Act;
 - (ii) one shall be representative of primary producers, not coming within sub-paragraph (i), associated with forests (Mr R Pollard, apiarist);
 - (iii) 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);
 - (iv) 3 shall be persons who represent an organization or organizations of employees registered under section 53 of the *Industrial Relations Act* 1979 being an organization or organizations that are representative of timber industry employees. These positions are currently vacant;
 - (v) one shall be a person having special experience in commercial forestry production (Mr P McNamara);
 - (vi) one shall be a member of the community, other than a primary producer, representing country interests. This position is currently vacant and will be filled subject to the amended CALM Act; and
 - (vii) one shall be a person who is a member of the Water and Rivers Commission established by the Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995. This position is currently vacant and will be filled subject to the amended CALM Act.

FUNDING OF THE COUNCIL

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

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

One meeting was held on 21 May 1998.

The Council was briefed by both Department and Industry representatives and discussed the following issues:

- The Regional Forest Agreement;
- Other current significant forest issues;
- Structure and membership of the Council.

Members noted that the Regional Forest Agreement was expected to be completed later in 1998 and agreed to reconvene following completion of the agreement and re-visit the issue of the future role, structure and membership of the Council in the context of the commitments and other outcomes of the final/RFA.