

Support For Old Growth Forests Reaches All-Time High

ON the eve of a crucial government announcement about the fate of our old growth karri and tingle forests, a new survey on attitudes of Western Australians to old growth forests shows that support for old growth forests has reached an all-time high.

In September 1999, leading market research company AMR: Quantum Harris interviewed 400 people and asked them the same questions asked in a previous survey conducted for the Conservation Council of WA in July 1998. Support for old growth forests has increased across the board.

- ◆ 82% of respondents disapproved of logging old growth forest (up from 74%).
- ◆ 91% disapproved of clear felling old growth forests (up from 87%).
- ◆ 92% disapproved of old growth forests being used for wood chipping (up from 83%).
- ◆ 84% believed that old growth forests should be

protected either to a full extent (55%) or to a great extent (29%). In 1998, the comparable figures were 76%, 42% and 34%.

Conservation Council spokesperson Beth Schultz said, "Public opinion on this issue is very clear. Western Australians overwhelmingly oppose any further logging of old growth forests. The majority wants all old growth forest protected.

"According to CALM, only 10% of our original old growth forest is still old growth. Western Australians don't want to lose any more.

"Since this is a democracy, in response to the people's considered opinion the Government must act immediately to protect our old growth jarrah forests as well as the karri and tingle."

*AMR: Quantum Harris is the research company used by the WA Department of Premier and Cabinet.

New CALM Annual Report Shows Logging At 15 Year High!

FIGURES presented in the latest CALM Annual Report, released last month, confirm community fears that CALM and the logging industry are rushing to destroy as much forest as they can before growing public opposition brings an end to old growth logging.

According to the report, the amount of karri forest clear felled last financial year was the second highest in 15 years - 1,970 hectares.

The amount of jarrah forest felled was the second highest in ten years - 19,250 hectares.

It is clear that, while the Government gives the appearance of responding to public concern over loss of our old growth karri and tingle forests, CALM has been flat-out getting as much of it on the ground as it can.

So much for moratoriums and 'sustainable logging'.

The situation with the jarrah is even worse, with huge areas of forest containing crucial wildlife habitat values being demolished in a logging frenzy.

To add insult to injury, the major products from all this logging continue to be woodchips, charcoal logs, railway sleepers and basic structural timber, all sold by CALM for a fraction of their real value.

According to the CALM Annual Report, this vast amount of logging of an irreplaceable natural asset

produced a 'profit' of just \$14 million, a mere pittance given the real value of the forest.

The Government should immediately halt the logging of all old growth forest and work with the community to establish a sustainable, economically rational, timber industry based mainly on plantation resources. ■

THE SOUTH-WEST TIMBER-TREKKING CO.

See the beautiful South-West Timberlands from horseback, as you make your way through National Park Horse Trails and Old Forestry Logroads.

DAY TREKS

CAMP-OUTS

GROUPS INDIVIDUALLY CATERED FOR

QUIET HORSES

For more information, please phone
PAUL OWENS on (097) 76 7199
PO Box 41, Northcliffe, WA 6262



EST 1948

The South-West Timber-Trekking Co. also offers forest treks for bushwalkers on foot. Fully catered 1, 2 or 3 night campouts or just a pleasant 3-hour stroll through the spectacular Northcliffe Forest Park.