



## MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

## STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED (PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)

## THE WEST AUSTRALIAN WOODCHIP INDUSTRY

## WA CHIP AND PULP CO. PTY. LTD.

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

- 1 The proponent shall adhere to the proposal as assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority and shall fulfil the commitments made in the Supplement to the Environmental Review and Management Programme for the proposal (copy of commitments attached).
- 2 The volume of chip log production from old growth Forest within State Forest described in the Timber Production Strategy shall be strictly observed by not exceeding the following amounts:

1988 - 1990	-	583,000 cubic metres
1991 - 1995	-	553,000 cubic metres
1996 - 1998	-	442,000 cubic metres
- 3 No logging shall occur in existing Road, River and Stream Zones until the Department of Conservation and Land Management has developed, in consultation with the public, a detail proposal for those zones and the Environmental Protection Authority has assessed and accepted the proposal.
- 4 (1) The Department of Conservation and Land Management (as part of the review and development of a detail proposal for Road, River and Stream Zones required in condition 3), shall identify within old growth State Forest:
  - . additional areas of high value old growth forest meriting special treatment in the sense that they should be managed and harvested flexibly rather than be subject to broad-scale clearfelling; and

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- areas which should be excluded from harvesting to protect their exceptional scenic, faunal, and other amenity values.
- (2) Within the constraints imposed by the Timber Production Strategy on the volume of sawlog timber, the Department of Conservation and Land Management shall prepare and implement a scheme of management for these special areas.
  - 5 Any proposal to harvest wood from the salt risk zones of the Central and Northern Forest Regions, by more intensive methods than selection cut harvesting shall be referred to the Authority for assessment.
  - 6 Marri resource in the salt-risk zones of the Southern Forest Region shall not be supplied to WACAP until an Environment Management Programme for these zones has been prepared to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority. The Management Programme shall give prior details of salt risk areas to be harvested, harvesting methods and safeguards to be applied, monitoring techniques proposed and feed-back mechanisms which would be used to modify management, if salt impacts were found.
  - 7 The proponent shall not use wood for woodchipping or obtain woodchips derived from the clearing of remnant native vegetation on private property after the date of this statement, except for individual cases, or in circumstances authorised by the Minister for Environment before clearing commences.
  - 8 The proponent shall not use wood for woodchipping or obtain woodchips derived from plantations on private property which were established by the clearing (after the date of this Statement) of remnant native vegetation, except in individual cases, or in circumstances where clearing was authorised by the Minister for Environment before clearing operations commenced.
  - 9 Approvals, including the Forest Produce Licence or log sale agreements, for the proponents' woodchip operations based on State Forest resource, shall be linked specifically to the duration of the Timber Production Strategy and Forest Region Management Plans. Approvals issued to the proponent shall be reviewed no later than at the expiry of the present Management Plans (presently planned for February 1998).
  - 10 The proponent shall, in consultation with the Department of Conservation and Land Management, contribute to and or participate in monitoring and management with respect to the environmental impact of this proposal to the satisfaction of the Minister for Environment. The detailed objectives and priorities for research into this monitoring and management shall be determined by the Steering Committee for Research and Land Use and Water Supply, following wide consultation including the public.
  - 11 The proponent and the Department of Conservation and Land Management shall report to the Environmental Protection Authority briefly annually and comprehensively after each five year period (1993 and thereafter) on the monitoring and management of the environmental impacts of the proposal.

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12 The conditions contained in this Statement shall be implemented forthwith.

13 These conditions apply to the use of wood for woodchips from the State Forest in the North, Central and Southern Forest Regions.

Barry Hodge, MLA  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

28 SEP 1988

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986

(SECTION 18(1))

DELEGATION (No. 2)

Pursuant to Section 18 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, I, Barry James Hodge, Minister for Environment, hereby delegate as follows -

Person to whom delegation applies:

This delegation is made to the person for the time being holding or acting in the office as The Commissioner of Soil Conservation appointed under section 7 of the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945 (as amended).

Powers and Duties delegated:

- (1) Power to authorize W.A. Chip and Pulp Company Pty Ltd to use wood for woodchipping or obtain woodchips derived from the clearing of remnant native vegetation on private property as provided for in Condition 7 of the Minister for Environment's Statement of 28 September 1988 issued pursuant to section 45(7) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 that the woodchipping proposal by W.A. Chip and Pulp Company Pty Ltd may be implemented.
- (2) Power to authorize W.A. Chip and Pulp Company Pty Ltd to use wood for woodchipping or obtain woodchips derived from tree plantations established by clearing of remnant native vegetation subsequent to 28 September 1988 as provided for in Condition 8 of the Minister for Environment's Statement of 28 September 1988 issued pursuant to section 45(7) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 that the woodchipping proposal by W.A. Chip and Pulp Company Pty Ltd may be implemented.


Provided that the person to whom this delegation applies:

- (a) when giving a permit to clear land, and including permission to clear land to meet the requirements of the Soil and Land Conservation Act, shall ensure that not less than twenty percent of the total area proposed for clearing, remains uncleared;
- (b) has regard to the conservation of flora and fauna and protection of landscape amenity values of the (not less than) twenty percent area;

- (c) may require the (not less than) twenty percent area to be properly fenced and protected from degradation including grazing; and
- (d) may exercise discretion in ensuring that not less than twenty percent of the area applied for, remains uncleared provided that the location, area and purpose of each exemption is available as public information.

Dated this sixteenth

day of January 1989

  
Barry Hodge, MLA  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

LIST OF COMMITMENTS MADE BY WA CHIP AND PULP CO PTY LTD  
IN THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE ERMP

## WACAP'S COMMITMENT TO THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

- o WACAP makes a firm commitment to continue supplying the world's paper industry with this specialised resource.
- o WACAP is committed to maintain and strengthen its contributions to the Regional, State and Australian economies.
- o WACAP is committed to expanding its role in supporting the people of Australia, particularly those in the south-west region.

## WACAP'S COMMITMENT TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- o WACAP sees its role as including the task of educating the general public that its operations are carried out within a framework of environmentally protective regulations and practices. These are based on continuing scientific research into the environmental effects of modern forest management.
- o WACAP accepts a responsibility to continue to utilise the natural paperwood resource obtained from forest residue left behind from harvesting of sawable timber in the south-west forests, and to ensure that its activities and operations within the broader context are consistent with genuine conservation of that resource in terms of the definition of conservation referred to in Section 7.1, with respect to protection and enhancement of the forest environment.

### WACAP Environmental Commitments in State Forests

- o WACAP will observe all controls and operating conditions imposed on it through the published codes, Acts and licences listed above.
- o WACAP will require that all its harvesting contractors engaged to harvest logs and deliver them to the Diamond Mill be familiar with the contents of CALM's management policies and regulations, and agree to abide by them.
- o WACAP will report to CALM any incidences of malpractice that come to its attention. Penalties for breaches of regulations will be the responsibility of CALM.

- o WACAP will monitor the effectiveness of the various management procedures and will, if necessary, make recommendations to CALM, the EPA or other relevant bodies, to further improve and strengthen the effectiveness of these documents in achieving their goals.
- o WACAP will support the education and instruction of all forest workers in appropriate levels of conservation knowledge and skills.

#### Conservation of Ecological Values

- o WACAP will comply and co-operate with all authorities under the W.A. Government and will abide by the newly promulgated Timber Strategy and Regional Management Plans and any documents relating to them.
- o WACAP will respect the annual harvest quotas from State forest established by CALM on the basis of sustainable yield.
- o WACAP will respect the boundaries of the various kinds of forest areas (such as State Forest, Timber Reserves, National Parks, Nature Reserves and Conservation Parks) as demarcated by CALM or other government departments.
- o WACAP will ensure that any permitted tree harvesting is confined within the boundaries laid down by CALM.
- o WACAP will adhere to CALM's directions with respect to harvesting operations for subsequent optimal forest re-growth.
- o WACAP will avoid any forest practices contrary to sound forest development as specified by CALM.

#### Water Quality

- o WACAP will continue its co-operative and cordial relations with the appropriate authorities - CALM and the Water Authority of Western Australia.
- o WACAP will continue its corporate membership of the WAWA's Water Quality Research Committee initiated in 1986, or any replacement or similar committee.



- o WACAP will retain buffer zones demarcated by CALM.
- o WACAP will observe proper management in all phases of operation to avoid excessive movement of soil (refer to section 7.3.1.8).
- o WACAP will continue to be responsible for the construction and maintenance of the primary log haul routes, giving due consideration to factors such as:
  - topography,
  - drainage pattern,
  - slope,
  - erosion hazard,
  - dieback hygiene, and
  - safety
 subject to CALM responsibility to approve location of the routes.
- o WACAP will continue to minimise soil erosion on road-ways in winter conditions by:
  - sealing major log road surfaces in susceptible flat areas, and
  - spreading ground cover on susceptible drainage gullies beside roads.
- o WACAP will continue to direct main road runoff into forest area to allow settlement of any dust or gravel carried by the water.
- o WACAP will continue to co-operate with CALM and all other relevant authorities in preventing and controlling bush fires. This will help minimise the turbidity of streams that can occur when wild-fires destroy vegetation and expose soils to erosion through wind and rain (refer to section 7.3.1.4).
- o WACAP will continue to recycle mill process water to the furthest practicable extent.
- o WACAP will continue to contain liquid outflow in storage dams.
- o WACAP will continue to ensure that periodic excess water discharge into nearby waterways is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Effluent Disposal Licence granted by the Environmental Protection Authority of Western Australia.
- o WACAP will monitor potential leachates from the paperwood stockpile and take corrective action to mitigate water quality impact if required (refer to section 7.3.1.11).

### Protection of Forest Productivity

- o WACAP will promote overall forest productivity by adhering to the recommended silvicultural management programme laid down by CALM.
- o WACAP will minimise the erosion of forest soils by avoiding excessive movement of soil during harvesting and road construction (refer to section 7.3.1.8).
- o WACAP will continue to coordinate the rehabilitation of compacted soil on behalf of the timber industry, by:
  - ripping landings and major snig tracks to a depth of approximately 0.5m,
  - arranging the bulldozer and driver,
  - servicing the machine, and
  - programming the sequence of operations.
- o WACAP will employ forest hygiene procedures as recommended by CALM to minimise spread of diseases, weeds or pests.
- o WACAP will monitor to avoid damage to retained trees during harvesting.
- o WACAP will report known incidences of contractors violating the terms of the Code of Logging Practice, although the imposition of penalties will be the responsibility of CALM.
- o WACAP will make recommendations to CALM for improvements which will lead to protection of forest productivity.

### Fire Prevention and Control

- o WACAP will retain appropriate buffers, as demarcated by CALM.
- o WACAP will maintain constant vigilance for wildfire outbreaks, and alert appropriate authorities.
- o WACAP will train company personnel in fire-fighting procedures and provide fire-fighting equipment in emergencies.

## Recolonisation by Flora and Fauna

- o WACAP will respect the boundaries of forest reserves of all kinds as determined by CALM, including
  - road reserves,
  - river and stream reserves,
  - National Parks, and
  - other classes of reserve.

## Genetic Diversity

WACAP is committed to co-operating with CALM in maintaining genetic diversity of the State forests. CALM is responsible for this through utilisation of seed trees, control of seed collection and planting, through its system of reserves and through its wood production and silvicultural practices.

## Landscape Values

- o WACAP will retain appropriate buffer zones where required by CALM.
- o WACAP will plan haulage road placement taking into consideration the visual aspects of the road (See section 7.3.1.9).
- o WACAP will apply prescribed remedial treatments to aid forest regrowth.

## Soil Protection

- o WACAP will respect "Special Care Zones" comprising all slopes greater than 20 degrees or slopes exceeding 15 degrees if they border on recognised water courses.
- o WACAP will restrict harvesting activities in these zones to a narrow range of soil moisture conditions.
- o WACAP will minimise machine movements.
- o WACAP will avoid downhill snigging and scrub-rolling except where this is impractical.
- o WACAP will complete soil rehabilitation prior to the first winter after regeneration burning.

- o WACAP will locate log landing and loading areas more than 50m from recognised water courses, except where this is impractical.
- o WACAP will lay snig tracks parallel to recognised water courses except where this is impractical, and will not cross them unless unavoidable.
- o WACAP will not allow logging roads to enter stream reserves except where this is impractical and approved by CALM, in which case bridges or culverts will be installed.
- o WACAP will apply stabilising treatments to minimise erosion of sites which may be at risk (those close to water courses), such as spreading bark on disturbed areas, and installing silt traps.
- o WACAP will install cross drains across snig tracks and roads at the completion of harvesting, in accordance with the Industry Control Specifications.
- o WACAP will strive to minimise soil disturbance and will observe the specifications designed for this purpose, including cessation of activities during or immediately following heavy rain.
- o WACAP will ensure that contractors involved in falling and snigging trees in areas designated by CALM continue to obey the rules laid down by CALM in the Code of Hardwood Logging Practice.

#### Haulage Roads

- o WACAP will prepare plans for its haulage roads constructed by WACAP contractors with a view to safeguarding many factors, including:
  - public safety,
  - erosion avoidance, and
  - noise reduction.
- o WACAP will submit these plans to CALM for approval at least 2 months prior to clearing for in-coupe roads, and at least 3 months prior to clearing for major roads. These plans will show:
  - proposed road alignments or alternatives,
  - the differentiation between new clearing and upgrading of existing roads,
  - proposals for creek or river crossings,
  - location of proposed gravel pits with details of quantities to be extracted.

- o WACAP will mark the route in the field at least 6 weeks prior to clearing, following approval of these preliminary plans.
- o WACAP will locate the roads based on consideration of various factors, including:
  - disease,
  - erosion,
  - sedimentation,
  - safety, and
  - visual amenity.
- o WACAP will observe CALM's specifications which include maximum clearing widths of 12m for major roads and 8m for in-coupe roads.
- o WACAP will observe the detailed specifications for minimisation of erosion (see Section 7.3.1.8) and for installation of drains and silt traps to control runoff and sedimentation from roads and borrow pits.
- o WACAP will maintain these roads by:
  - clearing culverts and silt traps, and
  - slashing scrub to maintain visibility.
- o WACAP will minimise inconvenience and risks to other users of the forest by:
  - utilising the private timber road system to the maximum extent possible,
  - monitoring traffic control, and
  - installing hazard warning signs for the protection of the public.

#### Recreation

- o WACAP will have regard for landscaping and visual amenity (section 7.3.1.7),
- o WACAP will use private forest roads as much as possible to separate industrial traffic from tourist traffic.
- o WACAP will contribute to maintaining ecological values (section 7.3.1.1),
- o WACAP will provide and maintain appropriate safety direction and information signs.
- o WACAP will contribute to enhancing water quality (section 7.3.1.2),

- o WACAP will contribute to the optimal growth of new forests (section 7.3.1.3),
- o WACAP will co-operate in preventing and controlling wildfires (section 7.3.1.4), and
- o WACAP will contribute to conserving the flora and fauna of the region (section 7.3.1.5) including genetic diversity (section 7.3.1.6)
- o WACAP will continue to encourage the public to inspect its facilities at the Diamond Mill, which is a popular local tourist attraction in its own right.

#### Mill and Port Operations

- o WACAP will continue to recycle liquid outflow to the maximum extent possible.
- o WACAP will carry out discharge of excess quantities, when necessary, in accordance with the terms of the Effluent Disposal Licence issued by the Environmental Protection Authority.
- o WACAP will minimise water quality impact in the unlikely event that leachate is detected from the paperwood stockpile.
- o WACAP will continue to comply with applicable noise regulations.
- o WACAP will continue to require employees exposed to potentially damaging noise levels to use hearing protection equipment.

#### Utilisation Standards

- o WACAP will prevent logs or parts of logs being processed into paperwood, if they could be commercially utilised as sawn timber.
- o WACAP will ensure that contractors on-site in forest coupes accurately separate logs into piles of either sawlogs or paperwood logs, according to the criteria laid down by CALM.
- o WACAP will encourage sawmillers to reclaim logs from paperwood log piles in the forest landings, for production into sawn timber.

- o WACAP will co-operate with CALM officers to ensure that paperwood logs delivered to the Diamond Mill are indeed below sawlog quality. WACAP will set aside any logs which WACAP consider to have saw milling potential for inspection by CALM officers and sawmillers.
- o WACAP will utilise the new process developed at its own initiative which recovers sections of paperwood logs that contain potential "saw-wood", and will make this available to CALM at regular intervals, for auction to saw millers.
- o WACAP will monitor the performance of its machinery to ensure that recovery of products is maximised.
- o WACAP will continue its policy of full public disclosure of the log selection and utilisation procedures laid down by CALM. Public tours showing all aspects of the operation are available.
- o WACAP will encourage all workers in the forest to take instruction on maximum utilisation procedures and will support such instruction.

WACAP Environmental Commitments on Private Property Owned by WACAP

- o WACAP will comply with the requirements of the Country Areas Water Supply Act (1947-78) by:
  - obtaining licences to clear any land in declared water catchment areas,
  - abiding by the conditions of any licence, and
  - maintaining the trees in a responsible and professional manner.
- o WACAP will comply with the Soil and Land Conservation Act (1945-82) by:
  - obtaining licences for clearing native trees covering an area greater than 1 hectare,
  - complying with the conditions of these licences,
  - ensuring that its operations, even if not restricted by a licence, do not cause land degradation.
- o WACAP will comply with the Bush Fires Act (1954-79) by:
  - establishing firebreaks on external boundaries of at least the minimum width as specified in each Shire,
  - establishing internal subdivision firebreaks as specified by the relevant Shire,
  - obtaining necessary permits to light fires for whatever reason, and
  - obeying the instructions of any duly authorised officer in the case of a bush fire.

- o WACAP will continue to manage young regrowing native trees on land purchased by WACAP, should those trees, in WACAP's opinion, be of sufficient quality and quantity for retention as future sawlogs and paperwood trees.
  
- o WACAP will develop a code of harvesting practice based on CALM's Code of Hardwood Logging Practice and its complementary Manual of Hardwood Logging Specifications and other similar codes in force in other parts of Australia. This code will include management practices for:
  - river and stream crossings,
  - road construction,
  - road drainage,
  - log storage and sorting area placement,
  - snig track placement,
  - soil disturbance during wet weather,
  - rehabilitation of log storage and sorting areas,
  - harvesting of steep slopes,
  - maximum utilisation of each tree, and
  - retention of vegetation alongside perennial and other recognised streams.
  
- o WACAP will ensure the maximum commercial utilisation of each tree by:
  - selling all sawlogs produced to sawmillers, be they general purpose or salvage quality,
  - holding auctions of any logs which WACAP considers to have sawlog potential but which are not taken by sawmillers from the land,
  - segregating the classes of logs at the storage and sorting areas so that accidental inclusions of sawlogs into paperwood is either nil or minimal, and
  - checking and segregating possible sawlogs or saw-wood sections after delivery to the Diamond Mill.
  
- o WACAP will ensure that its contractors conduct their business in a safe manner, whether they be conducting harvesting, routine management, or planting activities. Where there are potential hazards, contractors will be required to place notices of such where the public may be endangered (ie: signs warning of trucks entering the public road from private property).
  
- o WACAP will continue to take reasonable precautions to minimise fire damage by:
  - discussing with officers of the Bush Fires Board,
  - becoming financial members of the local fire brigade in each area where WACAP has a plantation,
  - liaising with Shire appointed fire officers, and
  - maintaining fire fighting equipment in its own right.



- o WACAP will continue to establish trial and demonstration plantings aimed at increasing the efficiency of tree establishment, growth and harvesting and will inform other landowners of such improvements.
- o WACAP will ensure the genetic diversity and integrity of the tree farms under its supervision by maintaining controls on the use of seed in regeneration.

WACAP Environmental Commitments on Private Property Owned by Others,  
Mainly Farmers

- o WACAP will continue to liaise with bodies such as the Western Australian Farmer's Federation (WAFF) to educate and motivate farmers into establishing tree plantations on private property.
- o WACAP will develop a "Code of Harvesting Practice" for contractors harvesting wood from private property where the subsequent land use is tree farming, and will request that participants of WACAP's various Tree Farming Incentive Schemes adopt this code. The code will be similar to that being developed on WACAP's private land, based on CALM's Code of Hardwood Logging Practice and its complementary Manual of Hardwood Logging Specifications and other similar codes in force in other parts of Australia. The code will include management practices for:
  - river and stream crossings,
  - road construction,
  - road drainage,
  - log storage and sorting area placement,
  - snig track placement,
  - soil disturbance during wet weather,
  - rehabilitation of log storage and sorting areas,
  - harvesting of steep slopes,
  - maximum utilisation of each tree, and
  - retention of vegetation alongside perennial and other recognised streams.
- o WACAP's supervisors will visit the site of harvesting operations on private property to monitor production.
- o WACAP's supervisors will administer the code and enforce penalties to the extent of WACAP's authority.
- o WACAP will reduce paperwood supply quotas of harvesting contractors who do not carry out the harvesting operation in an acceptable manner.

- o WACAP will engage additional qualified staff as required.
- o WACAP will continue to rigorously enforce safety rules and regulations covering private harvesting operations and road rules, including the compulsory wearing of:
  - hard hats,
  - safety boots, and
  - hearing protection.
- o WACAP's supervisors will impose any penalties which are legally enforceable by WACAP along the lines of:
  - initial warnings,
  - suspensions, or
  - life time bans from working as a supplier to WACAP.
- o WACAP will continue to support afforestation of previously cleared land and reforestation of newly harvested areas, through differential incentive payments and technical assistance to landholders.
- o WACAP will not accept paperwood logs from private land unless the landholder demonstrates that the necessary Government permits-to-clear have been obtained.
- o WACAP will not solicit logs from private sources and will continue to pay only modest stumpage rates for the paperwood which it purchases from landowners clearing for agricultural purposes, thus minimising the incentive for the private landowner to clear native forest for agricultural purposes.
- o WACAP will continue to reduce air pollution and convert a residue product into a marketable resource, by encouraging private landowners to salvage cleared timber which would otherwise be burnt (once a decision to clear land has been made by the private landowner).
- o WACAP will further offset the impact of pasture clearing by establishing a minimum of 5ha of tree plantation for every 1000 tonnes of paperwood it receives from private property, including WACAP-owned land. These tree plantations will be established either on WACAP-owned land, or on other private land through one of its private Forestry Incentive Schemes.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHIC SITES

- o WACAP will take measures to inform all personnel associated with the woodchipping activities of their obligations under the Act.
- o WACAP will modify its operations in accordance with CALM directions, if necessary, to avoid damage to Aboriginal sites.

## RESEARCH

- o WACAP commits to continuing either sponsorship or self-conducted research aimed at, among other things:
  - improved tree establishment procedures,
  - improved tree protection procedures,
  - improved tree growth,
  - improved utilisation of timber produced,
  - improved harvesting techniques,
  - new products manufactured from trees,
  - new manufacturing processes,
  - establishing new markets for products,
  - maintaining existing markets for products, and
  - adjusting current practices if better management techniques are indentified and quantified.
- o WACAP will encourage and agitate for more research effort by CALM into improving the growth, health and quality for sawlog and paperwood use of CALM's native trees and production forests.