



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Ass # 658
Bull # 652
State # 295

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

**AMENDMENTS TO THE 1987 FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS AND TIMBER
STRATEGY AND PROPOSALS TO MEET ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ON THE
REGIONAL PLANS AND THE WACAP ERMP**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT (CALM)

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1 Proponent commitments

The proponent has made a number of environmental management commitments in order to protect the environment.

- 1-1 In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments (which are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement) made in the proposal and in response to issues raised following public submissions.

2 Implementation

Changes to the proposal which are not substantial may be carried out with the approval of the Minister for the Environment.

- 2-1 An expert scientific and administrative committee will be established by the Minister for the Environment to review and report on the implementation of this proposal by 30 June 1993. The terms of reference of the committee will be to consider:

- reserve recommendations within multiple use forest involving those proposals related to temporary exclusion from timber production and potential reserves to act as wildlife corridors;
- the environmental, economic and social implications of such proposals for:
 - nature conservation within WA's native forests,
 - the maximum sustainable timber supply, and
 - the existing and future timber industry;
- the potential to increase the plantation estate on cleared agricultural land to contribute to the production of timber products.

- 2-2 Subject to these conditions, the manner of detailed implementation of the proposal shall conform in substance with that set out in any designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted by the proponent to the Environmental Protection Authority with the proposal. Where, in the course of that detailed implementation, the proponent seeks to change those designs, specifications, plans or other technical material in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.

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3 Precautionary approach and adaptive management

- 3-1 The proponent shall manage karri and karri-marri forest in accordance with a precautionary approach. This approach requires that where there is a significant risk that a particular forest management measure could lead to an irreversible consequence appropriate monitoring and subsequent adjustments to management within an acceptable timeframe be carried out.
- 3-2 The proponent shall manage the jarrah forest in accordance with the following general principles:
- (1) a precautionary approach;
 - (2) adaptive and flexible management practices based on research and monitoring of environmental monitoring of operations (see condition 17);
 - (3) implementation as a trial, with a reassessment by the Environmental Protection Authority after ten years - the period of the Management Plans and the Timber Strategy (see condition 11); and
 - (4) no commitment of all of the wood resource in the long term (see conditions 9 & 10).

4 Amendments to conservation estate

- 4-1 The proponent shall initiate the Government processes required to implement the proposed amendments to the conservation reserve estate as agreed to by the Minister for the Environment and defined in the approved Forest Management Plans.

5 Revised travel route, river and stream reserves

- 5-1 The proponent shall implement the revised system of travel route (road), river and stream reserves consistent with condition 15. It is noted that the minimum combined width (both sides of a first, second or third order stream) of the proposed zones is 60 metres.
- 5-2 The proponent shall ensure that the travel route (road), river and stream reserves remain unharvested in perpetuity, except for those portions of regrowth forest within road zones where thinning can be undertaken in a manner consistent with, and so as to enhance in the longer term, the defined visual quality objectives.
- 5-3 The proponent shall monitor the effectiveness of the travel route (road) river and stream reserves for nature conservation and protection of water quality to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment.

6 Diverse ecotype conservation areas

- 6-1 Diverse Ecotype Conservation areas shall be identified by the proponent and those greater than five hectares shall be identified on publicly available maps.
- 6-2 The proponent shall ensure that the Diverse Ecotype Conservation areas remain protected from timber harvesting and associated activities in perpetuity.

7 Old growth karri areas of high social or environmental value

7-1 The proponent shall identify and protect areas of old growth karri (up to 3200 hectares) with a high aesthetic, social or environmental value. This is to be implemented on a regional basis and with the benefit of public involvement. These areas shall:

- (1) include those trees in Beavis, Carey and Giblett forest blocks protected from clearfelling by environmental conditions related to the Manjimup-Beenup power line proposal (EPA Bulletin 603);
- (2) be identified publicly and progressively from the adoption of the Management Plans, with the proponent reporting to the Minister on progress towards implementation within three years; and
- (3) shall not be harvested, and shall be managed to retain their values (other than timber production).

7-2 The proponent shall report on the implementation and management of these special areas at the next Forest Management Review.

8 Sustainable yield estimates

8-1 The allocated timber resource for the period ending 30 June 1993, prior to the consideration by the Minister for the Environment of the report of the committee referred to in condition 1 will not exceed the 1993 level described in the 1987 Timber Strategy together with an additional amount of the timber resource that was approved in the 1987 Timber Strategy but remained uncut. This additional amount may be allocated by the proponent with the approval of the Minister for the Environment on a needs basis up to a total level not exceeding that proposed by the proponent in its 1992 proposals.

8-2 Following consideration of the report of the committee referred to in condition 2, the Minister for the Environment shall determine the annual sustainable timber resource available for allocation.

9 Commitment of wood

9-1 Subject to condition 8, in the letting of contracts for wood supply from the jarrah forest, the proponent shall;

- (1) not exceed the annual levels of timber supply defined in condition 8 above; and
- (2) recognise the possibility of the necessity to reduce wood supply beyond 2002 as a result of monitoring and adaptive management following the trial implementation of the jarrah forest silvicultural prescription.

10 Commitment of new resource to be referred

10-1 Notwithstanding Section 38 of the Environmental Protection Act, the proponent shall refer to the Environmental Protection Authority any proposal to enter into a contract for a substantial portion (as determined by the Minister for the Environment) of forest produce identified as other logs (jarrah) or forest residue (marri) in the revised Timber Strategy (Table 13 of the proposals document).

11 Jarrah silviculture trial

- 11-1 The proponent shall implement the jarrah silvicultural prescription so that monitoring of the environmental impacts on a representative range of treated sites and localities in the forest can be carried out to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment. This shall include long term monitoring which quantifies the impacts of silvicultural practices on environmental elements and values in the forest and provides bases to adjust management.
- 11-2 The proponent shall give all necessary assistance to the Monitoring and Research Committee (condition 16) to enable it to have an active and fully informed role in the planning and oversight of the scientific monitoring of this trial period.
- 11-3 The proponent shall report to the Minister for the Environment on outcomes of this implementation and monitoring and on any modifications to the prescriptions by 2002 as part of the next review of the Forest Management Plans and Timber Strategy.

12 Phased logging

- 12-1 The proponent shall ensure that, in all second order catchments in the intermediate and low rainfall zones of the multiple use jarrah forest subject to logging, at least 30 per cent of each second order catchment has a retained basal area of greater than 15 m²/ha for a period of at least 15 years after harvesting of the remainder of the catchment.
- 12-2 This retained forest shall be selected to enhance wildlife, water resource and visual objectives.
- 12-3 The proponent shall monitor, to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment, and report by 2002 on the status and effectiveness of these measures to protect nature conservation values and water quality at the time of the next review of the Forest Management Plans and Timber Strategy.

13 Habitat trees

- 13-1 The proponent shall ensure that the number, condition and age of trees retained on sites subject to gap treatment is sufficient, as determined by the Minister for the Environment, to adequately provide the habitat function throughout the cutting cycle of the forest.

14 *Banksia grandis* reduction

- 14-1 The proponent shall concentrate the proposed reduction of the population of *Banksia grandis* in specific areas where the environmental circumstances suggest that treatment will have the greatest impact on reducing the spread and intensification of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in the jarrah forest and where required to establish jarrah and marri regeneration.
- 14-2 The proponent shall establish a programme, to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment, to identify and evaluate the environmental implications of the proposed reduction and that the results of that evaluation shall be reported on, at or before the time of the next review of the Forest Management Plans by 2002.

15 Fire management

- 15-1 The proponent shall ensure that the fire management objectives related to the jarrah forest silvicultural prescription include the minimisation of air pollution in urban areas, to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment.
- 15-2 The proponent shall inform the public about its fire management on a regional basis each year in its annual report. This shall include but not be limited to the following:
- (1) occurrences and causes of wildfires;
 - (2) purposes of burns;
 - (3) areas burnt under different regimes of season and periodicity;
 - (4) escapes; and
 - (5) the contribution of prescribed burning to reducing wildfire hazard.
- 15-3 Within 12 months of this proposal being given authority to be implemented the proponent shall initiate a public review of its prescribed burning policy and practices and the wildfire threat analysis. This should be done with the close involvement of the Research and Monitoring Committee. If possible it should be linked with a review of the provisions of the Bush Fires Act.

16 High salt risk catchments

- 16-1 Within three years, or such other period as the Minister for the Environment shall nominate, the proponent, on advice from the Water Authority of Western Australia, shall identify second order catchments with a high salt risk.
- 16-2 Within each catchment identified according to the requirements of condition 16.1, the proponent shall retain additional river and stream buffers and locate areas temporarily reserved during phased logging operations to the requirements of the Water Authority of Western Australia.

17 Forest Monitoring and Research Committee

- 17-1 The Minister for the Environment will set up a committee having objectives which include:
- (1) identification, prioritisation and approval of monitoring and research programmes and projects on environmental impacts of forestry management,
 - (2) the granting of funds towards such monitoring and research,
 - (3) receival of progress reports,
 - (4) reporting to the Minister for the Environment and
 - (5) publication of results.
- 17-2 The Committee shall include the heads (or nominees) of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Environmental Protection Authority, the Western Australian Forest Industries Federation, the Conservation Council and the Water Authority of Western Australia, and the Chairpersons of the Lands and Forests Commission and the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.

17-3 The Committee shall appoint working groups of scientists to recommend and report to the Committee on the design and funding of research projects, the identification, prioritisation and review of monitoring and research programmes and projects relating to the environmental impacts of forest management.

17-4 The Committee shall provide brief annual progress reports to the Minister for the Environment, with major reports in 1997 and 2002, at the time of the next review of the Forest Management Plans and Timber Strategy.

18 Reporting on compliance

18-1 The proponent shall prepare "Progress and Compliance Reports", to help verify the environmental performance of this project, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Authority. These shall include brief annual progress reports to the Environmental Protection Authority, and major public reports in 1997 and 2002.

Note

Wherever the term "jarrah forest" is used in this statement it includes both the jarrah and the jarrah-marri forests.


Procedure

Compliance

The Environmental Protection Authority is responsible for verifying compliance with the conditions contained in this statement, with the exception of conditions stating that the proponent shall meet the requirements of either the Minister for the Environment or any other government agency.

If the Environmental Protection Authority, other government agency or proponent is in dispute concerning compliance with the conditions contained in this statement, that dispute will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.

Prior to making determinations as provided for in these conditions the Minister for the Environment may seek advice from the Forest Monitoring and Research Committee.


Jim McGinty, MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

24 December 1992