



**Forest
Products
Commission**
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Forest Products Commission is responsible for commercial timber production from public forests in Western Australia. The Commission has implemented an environment management system, and is proud to advise that this system has been certified as complying with the requirements of AS/NZS ISO 14001:1996, effective from 11 July 2001.

The Commission's Environmental Management System operates to Standards established under a Forest Management Plan that is approved by the Minister for the Environment, as well as our Regional Forest Agreement that has been signed with the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

Under Western Australia's State forest policy, no timber is now sourced from old growth forest. Native hardwoods are now supplied from regrowth forests on a sustainable basis. The Forest Products Commission is pleased to be working with Western Australia's forest products and manufacturing industry to deliver quality products from certified and sustainably managed forests.

Dr Paul Biggs
GENERAL MANAGER

31 December 2001



**ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM**
ISO 14001 NATA CERTIFIED

Certification No. 8289



CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN

The Forest Products Commission (FPC) is responsible for commercial timber production from publicly-owned native forests and plantations in Western Australia.

Under Western Australia's State native forest policy, no timber is sourced from old growth forest. Native hardwoods, including jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) and marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) are supplied from previously-harvested forests on a sustainable basis.

Timber harvesting from State native forests is conducted under the Forest Management Plan 2004-2013. The Plan is aligned with the Montreal Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management. It is assessed by Western Australia's independent Environmental Protection Authority and approved by the Minister for the Environment. The Plan is also consistent with and exceeds the environmental requirements of the Western Australian Regional Forest Agreement with the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

Timber production from publicly-managed plantations is also governed by the Forest Management Plan (in the case of State forest) and by the Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting in the case of freehold land. The Forest Products Commission supplies both *Pinus radiata* and *Pinus pinaster* from these plantations.

All native forest and plantation operations of the Forest Products Commission are certified under ISO 14001 (2004) Environmental Management System.

On 24 March 2006 the State Government committed to pursuing certification under the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) with the aim of achieving certification by the end of 2007. The AFS is controlled by Standards Australia, the national body for setting standards in this country, and has mutual recognition with the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

Kim Chance MLC
MINISTER FOR FORESTRY

5 JUL 2006



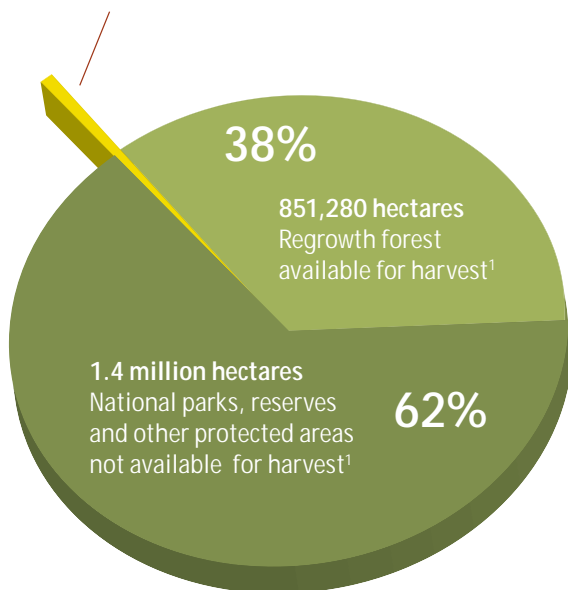
South West native forests in Western Australia

There are approximately 2.25 million hectares of native forest vested in the Conservation Commission in the South West of Western Australia.¹ Of this more than 1.4 million hectares or 62 per cent is protected in national parks, reserves and other areas not available for harvest including all old-growth forests.¹

Less than 1% of the total native forest area is harvested annually. Harvested native forest is regenerated.

Some of our major parks and reserves — Lane Poole, Big Brook, Boranup — are in fact regrowth forests, which means they have previously been harvested and successfully regenerated for everyone to enjoy.

Less than 1%
of the total forest area is harvested annually



This graph represents the total native forest estate in the South West under the Forest Management Plan 2014–2023 (2.25 million hectares¹).

Sustainable forest management

Western Australia's public native forests are sustainably managed within a comprehensive policy and regulatory framework. The Conservation Commission of Western Australia develops 10-year Forest Management Plans (FMP) which are reviewed by the Environmental Protection Authority and administered by the Department of Parks and Wildlife. The Forest Products Commission (FPC) manages the harvesting and regrowing according to the requirements of the FMP. The FPC enters into contracts to provide and sell timber products.

Forest certification – Timber production from the State's forests is independently certified to the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) and the international standard for Environmental Management Systems (EMS ISO 14001). This means that our forest harvesting practices have been through a rigorous environmental review process. Certification provides consumers with assurance that their timber products originate from responsibly managed forests.

"In the long-term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest will generate the largest (climate change) mitigation benefit."

IPCC 2007 Fourth Assessment Report, Mitigation of Climate Change, UNEP & WMO

Biodiversity maintained – After harvesting, forest biodiversity recovers successfully due to regeneration practices and the resilient nature of the forest. Long-term scientific monitoring in the jarrah forest has shown that after 40 years there is no detectable difference in biodiversity between harvested and unharvested forests.²

1. Appendix 6 - Conservation Commission of Western Australia. 2013. Forest Management Plan 2014-2023. Conservation Commission of Western Australia, Perth.

2. Australian Forestry. 2011. A regional journal of forestry science and forest management - special issue: FORESTCHECK, Vol 74, no. 4.



Jarrah dining table – Support your local forest industry and local communities by purchasing Western Australia's sustainably managed timber products.

Why harvest native forest?

Meeting demand – There is strong demand from consumers for Western Australia's unique timbers. The volume of forest products produced in Australia is insufficient to meet our country's demand for timber based products. Australia's net import deficit averages around \$2 billion per year.³ In fact, aside from ongoing native forest timber harvesting, we need to expand our plantations to meet future consumer demand and reduce our reliance on imported timbers, some of which are from sources that are unsustainable and illegally harvested.

Regional employment – The State's native forest-based timber industry directly employs more than 1,000 people⁴ in regional Western Australia and contributes to the \$1.06 billion⁵ per year forest industry turnover. Employment includes jobs in forest management, harvesting, transport and primary processing. Additional jobs are also created through indirect employment in regional schools, hospitals and service industries.

Improves forest health – Tree deaths have been occurring due to extended periods of low rainfall and high temperatures. Where trees demand more water than is available, forest thinning and management can mitigate these deaths, increase the flow of clean water to our dams to provide more drinking water, and improve the health of our rivers.

Did you know?

Pest animals such as foxes and cats, land clearing and urban expansion are the main threats to native flora and fauna in Western Australia.

Timber from sustainably managed forests is a renewable resource with significant environmental, social and economic benefits for all Western Australians.

3. Australian Bureau, (ABARES). Australia's forests at a glance 2012 with data to 2010-11. ABARES, Canberra.

4. URS. 2012. Social and economic impact assessment on the potential impacts of the implementation of the Draft Forest Management Plan 2014-2023. URS Australia, Crawley, Western Australia.

5. Schirmer, J. 2008. Forestry, jobs and spending: Forest industry employment in Western Australia. CRC for Forestry, Hobart.

6. Forestry Commission England, www.forestry.gov.uk/england

7. Wood products & greenhouse gas impacts, www.naturallywood.com

Timber, a natural choice

Trees capture and store CO₂ — a greenhouse gas — and carbon continues to be stored in wood products even after harvesting. As forests get older they reach a state of carbon equilibrium — the carbon they capture each year equals the amount they release through decay. As a result, harvested and regenerated forests capture more carbon from the atmosphere than forests that are not harvested.

Timber insulates 15 times better than concrete, 400 times better than steel and 1,770 times better than aluminium, and is more efficient at heating and cooling.⁶

Far less carbon emissions are produced in the manufacture of timber products than other building materials. By building a house in timber the carbon emissions saved, compared to other materials, are equivalent to running a car for seven years.⁶

Timber is unique among building materials because it continues to store carbon long after the tree is harvested. Up to 50% of timber's dry weight is carbon.⁷

The common native species used in Western Australia are jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) and marri (*Corymbia calophylla*). The beautiful colours, strength and durability of these unique timbers are widely used in the production of high quality furniture, flooring, decking and joinery. Residue wood from sawlog harvesting is used for other purposes such as charcoal for high grade silicon production, found in every day products we rely on such as computers, mobile phones and solar panels.

Buy local, buy sustainable

Buying Western Australia's sustainably managed timber products supports local manufacturing and local communities.

