

According to this draft sustainability strategy, the forest management plan prepared by the Conservation Commission of WA will address the path to sustainability with respect to forest management. I will highlight why this in its current form is unacceptable with the dominant focus continuing as timber management and not the protection of our native forests.

Firstly the document as did the draft forest management plan proposes a shift in the manner in which decisions are made on levels of harvest from native forests namely by adopting the precautionary principle, concerned with decision making under uncertainty and inter generational equity which ensures that what we have will be maintained or enhanced for future generations. This has not been reflected in current logging practices and a prime example is the eastern jarrah region. This area is a low rainfall zone and where seedling regeneration has proved difficult to achieve. The precautionary principle must be applied here and areas such as these not be logged if there is any uncertainty about their future regeneration. Proposing new and existing strategies such as shelterwood and lignotubers in these "difficult sites" is not sufficient. New and independent scientific research incorporating the precautionary principle must be conducted regarding the sustainability of these areas. While this research is being conducted these areas must be protected otherwise the future of these forests is at risk.

Clearfelling (karri) and gap felling (jarrah) are endorsed as methods of practice in the draft forest management plan. Clearfelling/Gap felling is irreversibly destructive with a total disregard for biodiversity of species both flora and fauna. These methods would not be employed if the precautionary principle and intergenerational equity was truly applied.

The draft forest management plan stated that ecological forestry, a conceptual framework for ecologically sustainable forest management could be considered, however the document then clarifies the model only as a direction the plan "may wish to move" and not an a representational objective. In light of promising Ecological Sustainable Forest Management this makes no sense.

It is positive that the sustainability strategy states that plantations will play an important role in the future of timber production. The royalties on our native timbers must be at least doubled, recovery rates increased and logging rotations lengthened. It must be recognised that plantation trees are there to be harvested and that our native forest does not exist primarily to be logged. Our native forests are exactly that, Our Native Forests! It is arrogance to insist that these forests must be logged for industries to remain as they are.

Make a difference, you are in a unique position where you can.