

27.02.2003

Dr Geoff Gallop
Dept Premier & Cabinet
C/- State Sustainability Unit

Dear Premier

The following is my submission regarding the Draft Sustainability Strategy Document;

In the document you claim that the government has protected all old growth forests. However it would seem that the Bureaucrats at CALM/Forest Products have fooled you yet again. You should have put some much needed new blood into those government agencies when you came to power. Instead, it's the same old people proposing the same old argument that the trashing and destroying of our High Conservation Value forests is sustainable, when it is not. It is irreplaceable, especially when rainfall is steadily dropping off. Surely you must know that these bureaucrats have effectively cut our old growth heritage forest in half by separating the old growth from the high conservation value forests? Your government may well have protected the old growth forests, but has not protected the high conservation value forests which may have had a minimum of logging in the past but which are today effectively and truly old growth forests. This shows a very serious flaw in your draft document. It will mean the destruction of much native forest that should otherwise have been protected. Similarly, the size of the future cut in the new forest management plan at around 170,000 cubic metres is unsustainable. From where in the ether does your forest products commission pluck such a figure? Do you seriously think our poor old regrowth forests can sustain such severe logging? Even the lower figure of around 106,000 cubic metres of jarrah is unsustainable.

Sincerely Yours

John Daw
1375 Stone Street
CHIDLOW WA 6556