

Submission to the Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Regional Services.

From Trees South West-South West Regional Plantation Committee-Western Australia.

**This submission is provided to advise your Standing Committee of:
our Committee's role in our Region,
our involvement in the Farm Forestry Industry &
our involvement with Planning, Transport & Infrastructure issues.**

Our Committee would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Standing Committee to discuss the following issues :

- **Planning, coordination and cooperation in the provision of infrastructure in regional areas**
- **and the benefits to the national economy of developing regional infrastructure such as roads and port facilities.**
- **the potential for development in regional areas.**

Trees South West is a Regional Plantation Committee committed to the promotion and development of Farm Forestry in the South West Region.

We have representation from Farmers, the Timber Industry(from plantation establishment through to processing), Local & State Government and the Community.

Trees South West was established in November 1996 following approval of funding from the Department of Primary Industry and Energy Federal Government Farm Forestry Program. (now known as the Department of Forestry, Fisheries of Australia) The aim of the program is to Encourage the Growing of Commercial Trees on Farms.

We are also funded by the South West Development Commission, Agriculture WA and Local Industry.

We are located in the South West Region of WA. The South West is estimated to have 223, 000 hectares of land suitable for planting commercial trees. This would mean an extra \$384 million in annual economic activity and 1800 new jobs.

Trees South West's Role in the Community is:

- *To Promote the Economic and Environmental Benefits of Farm Forestry to Raise Community Awareness and Acceptance.*
- *To Facilitate Improved Communication and Co-operation between Landholders, Industry and Government.*
- *To provide a Forum for Farmers, Industry, Local & State Government and Community Groups to discuss Farm Forestry Issues that Impact on the Industry and the Region.*

Trees South West actively promote and facilitate Farm Forestry in the Region by:

- *Addressing Planning, Transport and Infrastructure issues that affect Farm Forestry.*
- *Advising the Public of Farm Forestry Information Sources.*
- *Promotion and Sponsorship of Education and Training Programs.*
- *Organising & Promoting Farm Forestry Field Days and Displays at Local Events.*
- *All work in our program is done on a National, State and Regional Basis.*

Current Activities being undertaken by Trees South West

Liaison with Local Shires to promote Farm Forestry and Uniform Planning Regulations. Assistance with the development of the Farm Forestry Planning bulletin.

Support for a Study being undertaken by the Department of Transport, Main Roads Department & the South West Development Commission to collect inventory plantation data to develop Strategic Planning Study of Plantation Infrastructure & economic modelling for timber flows. The data will be mapped to determine what road networks will be required & costs involved. Contact and membership on Regional Road Network Groups. Formation of a Road Network Group to encompass the whole timber industry, local & state government to do further economic modelling for road infrastructure and to source avenues for funding.

A desktop study to determine road use of various farming activities to provide local shires with raw data to assess maintenance requirements.

Industry Capability Register- A database of South West Farm Forestry Business's.

A desktop study of Employment and Skills projections for Farm Forestry.

Quick Overview of the Industry

Bluegum Industry

The South West has over 105,000 ha of Bluegums planted and that is expected to increase by more than 20,000 ha per year in WA.

The Bluegum industry is expected to produce 1 million tonnes of woodchips in 2003 and 2 million tonnes in 2006.

Chipmill construction to commence both near Bunbury and Albany in the year 2000.

Bunbury shiploading facilities at the port are to be upgraded.

Pine Industry

Over 75,000 ha planted by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

15,000ha - Privately owned.

The Maritime Pine Project(CALM) aims to plant 15,000ha per year.

For further information and contact person:

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