

**CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2024**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr R.R. Whitby (Minister for Environment)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

*Second Reading*

**MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Environment)** [1.05 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2024 is to amend the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984. I am very pleased to introduce these amendments that solidify and lock in this Labor government’s historic decision to stop the unsustainable practice of commercial native logging. This commitment will protect our south west native forests and manage them into the future for their health and resilience. More than two decades after the Gallop Labor government ended old-growth logging, the Cook government has delivered on its commitment to end commercial logging in Western Australia’s native forests. Western Australia has become one of the first states in Australia to end commercial logging of native forests. Under the *Forest management plan 2024–33*, this government will commit to protecting nearly two million hectares of native karri, jarrah and wandoo forests for future generations.

By way of background, state forest and timber reserves are reserved under the CALM act for multiple purposes including conservation, recreation, water catchment protection, timber production on a sustained yield basis and other purposes prescribed in regulation 81 of the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002. Three key amendments will be made by the amendment bill. The first will repeal the provision in section 55(1a) that allows “timber production on a sustained yield basis” to be a purpose for which indigenous state forest and timber reserves may be reserved. The second will limit the regulation-making power in section 55(1a) so that timber production cannot be prescribed in the CALM regulations. The third will amend section 55 to clarify that timber production does not include the removal of salvaged forest products arising from, or in anticipation of, prescribed activities or purposes. This will enable the removal of salvaged forest products to continue as a purpose for which state forest and timber reserves are managed.

There has been extensive community, industry and government agency engagement on the recently approved *Forest management plan 2024–33*. Suffice to say, the amendment bill facilitates the appropriate management and protection of our south west native forests consistent with that plan. Other amendments to be made by the amendment bill are administrative in nature and will update and modernise the CALM act consistent with the government’s goal of pursuing legislative reform. Schedule 1 of the act will be amended to enable the Conservation and Parks Commission, which is a body established to advise the Minister for Environment on the conservation estate and its management, to convene meetings using instantaneous electronic communication—that is, remote meetings—rather than in person. Lastly, gender-specific references in schedule 1, such as chairman, will be replaced in line with community expectations. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr P.J. Rundle (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)**.