



The ASN is a support network of plantation sandalwood growers mainly in the wheatbelt area .Currently the oldest plantations we have are approximately 13 years old and we expect that harvest of plantation sandalwood will commence in about 8-10 years time

At present all the Santalum spicatum from WA is harvested from the rangelands in the Goldfields and Murchison areas by contractors for the Forest Product Commission . Rangelands Sandalwood, already accounts for approx 50% of world production.

Our keen interest is maintaining the supply and the sustainability of the sandalwood industry . We do not want to see our reputation as a country of reliable supply damaged.

If the amount of sandalwood coming from the rangelands were to suddenly stop there would be a huge gap until plantation sandalwood is available which would be disaster for the industry .We hope to see a gradual transition from the wild harvest to plantation harvesting .

At present where sandalwood is pulled contractors are obliged to reseed areas as they go to ensure regeneration...Unfortunately despite this process sandalwood there seems to reasonable doubt about the success of this due to the excess of grazing animals such as sheep but especially goats. It only takes a goat to nip off one sandalwood plant every 5 years to prevent recruitment . Even if trees get above the browsing line goats can get on their back legs and almost climb the trees or ring bark it and so do so much damage the tree will die .

Grazing animals in numbers cannot exist besides a successful and sustainable sandalwood industry in the rangelands. Even kangaroos whose populations are supported by man made watering points will cause damage to the regeneration of sandalwood...Sandalwood and its host plant the Acacia species are both preferentially grazed by all herbivores as the leaves contain a high degree of nitrogen . The constant grazing will also affect the recruitment of all native species not just sandalwood species leaving the soil vulnerable to wind erosion .

Currently FPC manages the rangeland sandalwood on a sustainable basis and has a vast array of knowledge and experience of managing the wild harvest and establishment of new plantations .We would not like to see the wild harvest handed over entirely to private growers but would like to see numerous players involved in the to assist in strengthening and diversifying the industry.

A sustainable and responsible approach is needed if FPC is to relinquish or share their monopoly.

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www.sandalwood.org.au

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