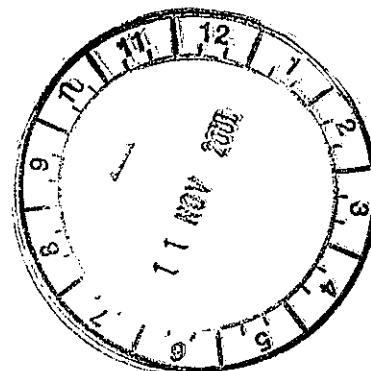




**Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry;  
Minister Assisting the Minister for Education**

Our ref: 39-05500

Hon Brian Ellis MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Brian

**Petition No 40 – Mundlimup Forest, Jarrahdale Logging**

Thank you for your letter on forest issues near Jarrahdale, with copy of the petition No. 40 and the tabling of member's submission, which was received by my office on 23 October 2009.

I am pleased to provide advice and comment on the key areas noted in your letter.

**Impact on tourism**

The Jarrahdale area has been a centre for timber harvesting and processing since the 1870s and the regrowth forests and the history of timber use are one of the items of interest for the tourism industry.

While the planned 2009/10 timber harvest area in Mundlimup 03 will temporarily disturb an area of forest near Jarrahdale, it will be less than 10 per cent of the total public forest area within a 6 km radius of the town; the bulk of the forest area, including the Serpentine National Park remains available for tourists

To ensure any disturbance is minimised, Forest Products Commission (FPC) is actively engaged with local interests to ensure that key used sites, walk trails and much of the visible forest will be uncompromised by operations. Within four or five years these effects will generally be barely noticeable.

There is, in my view, ample opportunity for harvesting activities to co-exist with tourism.

**PUBLIC**

## **Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo**

Through the Forest Management Plan (FMP), there are specific strategies for protection endangered fauna species.

Most jarrah forest areas provide either nesting or feeding habitat for Carnaby's as well as Baudin's and Forest Red Tailed Cockatoos. Habitat trees are protected during the process of harvest planning and during operations. The standards for this work are set by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), who would be better able to answer questions about the adequacy of retained habitat as well as the habitat provided by adjacent non-harvested areas.

## **Impact of Harvesting**

The claim that harvesting results in the destruction of the forest is clearly untrue; the forests around Jarrahdale have been harvested previously on several occasions, and at a greater intensity than currently proposed. The jarrah forest is well known to be resilient and this area is a prime example of its capacity to recover from disturbance. I urge you not to confuse the immediate visual effect – which I admit can be confronting – with ecological impacts.

The FPC have assured me that they will make the utmost effort to lessen the immediate visual impact in sensitive areas nearer Jarrahdale. I am confident that the staff managing the proposed Mundlimup harvest area are committed to planning and managing the operations to achieve this end. For example, a smaller harvesting machine than used in nearby harvesting will be brought in for Mundlimup and un-saleable timber above a certain size will be moved away from visually sensitive areas.

It is also important to note that whilst the overall coupe planning area covers more than 900 hectares of forest in Mundlimup 03, the likely harvest area will be no more than a third of that.

## **Dieback Disease**

Management of the risk of disease spread has been a feature of harvesting operations for many years. These are now governed by the procedures outlined by DEC, including a detailed Hygiene Management Plan authorised by DEC prior to roading or harvesting operations.

Detailed management specifications are set out in the Contractors' Timber Harvesting Manual (Section 4.3 "Health and Vitality Maintenance"), which controls all activity involving machine movement within and across dieback disease boundaries to restrict transmission of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* inoculum into uninfested forest.

## **Economic returns**

The value to the State from forest harvesting cannot just be measured by the charges paid for the harvested logs. It is important to also include the economic activity which is underpinned by harvesting. Log products from the Mundlimup operation - potentially 3,000 tonnes of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade jarrah sawlogs, 1,500 tonnes of domestic firewood and 300 tonnes of craft wood logs - will be sold to a range of customers, four of which are located within the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire.

## **Broader threats to the forest**

The Forest Management Plan addresses the broad range of factors affecting the forest. The level of harvesting and the places in which it can and cannot occur are decided as a result of an exhaustive process that has a high degree of community input.

While some of the residents of Jarrahdale might wish it otherwise, the area being planned for harvesting in Mundlimup forest has been assessed as available after consideration of many factors.

Yours sincerely



10 NOV 2009

**TERRY REDMAN MLA**  
**MINISTER FOR FORESTRY**