



Media Release

IFA condemns Wellington Discovery Forest being included as National Park (231203)

Chairman of The Institute of Foresters of Australia (WA Division), Mr John Tredinnick said he was very disappointed at the recent decision of the Government to include the Wellington Discovery Forest in the proposed Wellington National Park near Collie. Mr Tredinnick said this would “effectively destroy the original concept of providing information and education opportunities in one section of forest.”

The Wellington Discovery Forest was set up in 1991 to inform people on ALL aspects of the jarrah forest – ecology, timber production and its value to the community. The concept received bi partisan support at the time and was designed to inform, educate and illustrate all facets of the jarrah forest, including forest management. Members of the Institute of Foresters of Australia have put an enormous amount of thought and planning into developing the project.

Commonwealth funds of over \$200,000 have been provided via the South West Development Commission to start the project and it forms one of the "Living Windows" of the South West.

The jarrah forest at Wellington is 100-year old regrowth forest originating after heavy cutting at the turn of the century to supply the long disappeared Wellington Mill. By including the Wellington Discovery Forest within the National Park, where future forest harvesting is not permitted, the government has deprived future generations of a world class forest education centre. The Wellington Discovery Forest provided a clear indication of the capacity of the jarrah forest to regenerate after harvesting and small areas of further harvesting were planned to demonstrate the full cycle of forest management.

Mr Tredinnick said “The government has ignored viable options to keep the education facility within the National Park boundaries and turned its back on a previous commitment in January 2002 to continue the operation of the demonstration forest.”

Mr Tredinnick urged people to visit the Discovery Forest in the New Year to experience it for themselves. Members of the Institute of Foresters will be available to conduct guided tours for groups who book in advance.

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Tuesday December 23rd - 1300 hours