



Hon. David Kelly
Minister for Water; Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science; Youth
8th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

18 March 2020

Dear Minister Kelly

TIMBER HARVESTING IN TWO TIERED KARRI FORESTS

I am writing in relation to the recent announcement from your office that the Western Australian Government has placed a 12-month freeze on the logging of two-tiered karri forests in the state's South West region.

The Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers (IFA/AFG) is Australia's representative body for forestry professionals and forest growers. Established in 1935, the IFA/AFG has over 900 members engaged in all aspects of forest management, forest growing, farm forestry and conservation in Australia. The Institute's Western Australian Division currently has over 100 members, some of whom have worked extensively in the karri forest over many decades. The membership represents all segments of the forestry sector, including public and private practitioners engaged in forestry, nature conservation, resource and land management, research, administration and education.

The announcement of a freeze on harvesting of two-tiered karri forests in the Forest Products Commission's native-timber harvest plan for 2020 was reported by the ABC as being due to a lack of customer demand. The Institute recognises that the demand for logs of different specifications is responsive to market opportunities and other commercial factors, and that annual harvest volumes will vary accordingly. However, the Institute is concerned at the perception of political intervention in what should be operational and commercial decisions for the Forest Products Commission. This concern is heightened by the timing of the announcement, by government rather than the Commission itself, in the year leading up to a state election. This change to the routine planning and harvesting where mature and two tiered forest coupes are blended with regrowth coupes, also follows soon after the sale of the Nannup and Greenbushes sawmills to Parkside Timbers whose decision to invest in the south-west native timber industry would have been predicated on resource security in accordance with the state's Forest Management Plan 2014-23.

The extent of consultation with timber industry stakeholders affected by this decision appears to have been minimal at best, and members of the WA Division with contacts in the timber industry have been informed that the decision will adversely affect the supply of larger dimension logs that are sought after for specific products.



THE INSTITUTE OF FORESTERS OF AUSTRALIA
Incorporating AUSTRALIAN FOREST GROWERS

GPO Box 1272, Melbourne, Victoria 3001

P: 03 9695 8940

E: admin@forestry.org.au

W: www.forestry.org.au

ABN: 48 083 197 586

The Institute is also concerned that the decision to avoid harvesting in two-tiered karri forests during the next 12 months could lead to a concentration of harvesting in areas of older even-aged regrowth forest in Big Brook and Treen Brook localities close to Pemberton. Bringing forward the harvest of these areas of forest could reduce the longer-term level of sustained yield from the karri forest, and also result in inconvenience to forest users and neighbours through a greater level of haulage traffic on particular roads.

The Institute seeks your assurance that the Western Australian government remains committed to implementation of provisions of the Forest Management Plan 2014-23 including ongoing access to timber resources from two-tiered karri forests.

Please copy correspondence to the Western Australian Division at ifawadivision@gmail.com

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Gordon', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Bob Gordon
IFA/AFG President