

## **JULIMAR STATE FOREST**

### *Assembly's Resolution*

Message from the Assembly requesting concurrence in the following resolution now considered -

That the Council agree to a similar resolution as that agreed to by the Assembly that the proposal to amend the notified management plan purposes for the Julimar State Forest laid on the Table of the Assembly on 20 June 2000 by command of His Excellency the Governor be carried out.

### *Motion to Concur*

**HON PETER FOSS** (East Metropolitan - Attorney General) [9.07 pm]: I move -

That in reply to Message No 4 from the Legislative Assembly, this House concurs in the resolution that the proposal to amend the notified management plan purposes for the Julimar state forest, be carried out.

It is proposed to amend the purposes notified in the forest management plan 1994 for which the Julimar state forest is managed by deleting timber production on a sustained yield basis as a purpose. The Julimar state forest has an area of 28 600 hectares of predominantly wandoo woodlands and is east of Chittering and Bindoon.

The Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 lists the management purposes for indigenous state forest. These purposes must be specified in the *Government Gazette* notice required when a management plan has been approved. The Act also requires any amendment to the published purposes for the management of indigenous state forest to be approved by both Houses of Parliament in the same manner as when state forest is cancelled. The approval notice for the current forest management plan 1994 lists all the purposes specified in the Act as purposes for which the south west state forests may be managed. Timber production on a sustained yield basis is one of the listed purposes for which all the south west forests, including Julimar state forest, will be managed.

The Regional Forest Agreement has committed the Julimar state forest to become an interim forest conservation zone where timber production will be excluded. This commitment is similar to the forest management plan 1994 recommendation for the Julimar state forest to become a conservation park, where timber production would also be excluded. When mineral prospectivity issues have been resolved, the Julimar interim forest conservation area will become a conservation park.

Julimar is the only state forest which is subject to the RFA and which will be converted in its entirety to a forest conservation zone in which timber production will be excluded as a management purpose. The proposed removal of timber production as a purpose for Julimar does not reflect any shift in management for the area since the forest management plan 1994 came into operation. Timber production ceased in Julimar in about the mid 1970s. The proposed removal of timber production as one of the notified management purposes of the Julimar state forest has been endorsed by the Lands and Forest Commission, the body in which state forest is vested. The Department of Conservation and Land Management has also received advice from the Crown Solicitor's Office on the need to amend the notified management processes for Julimar. I commend the motion to the House and ask members to support it.

**HON J.A. COWDELL** (South West) [9.11 pm]: The Opposition supports this motion as proposed by the Attorney General. It is pleased to see it. As the Attorney noted, the Julimar State forest is part of the northern extension of the jarrah, marri and wandoo forest located north of Perth and east of Toodyay. It occupies an area of approximately 28 600 hectares. The area has value for its flora and fauna and has a high ecological rating. The zoning of this forest will allow the extraction of minerals. However, the Minister for the Environment has given an undertaking that, as soon as the issue of prospectivity is sorted out, the region will become a forest conservation zone. I trust that appropriate funds will be made available for the management, consolidation and expansion of the area. It appears to contain some private holdings, and a management plan might see those incorporated within the forest area.

**HON NORM KELLY** (East Metropolitan) [9.13 pm]: The Australian Democrats also support this motion. This is one of the positive outcomes of the Regional Forest Agreement. Almost 29 000 hectares of this primarily jarrah, marri and wandoo forest will be converted into a forest conservation zone. I note that this zoning will allow for the extraction of minerals. The Democrats understand that, once matters of prospectivity are sorted out, the region will become a forest conservation zone.

The zone contains significant areas of wandoo forest, particularly along the brook system, which includes the Julimar, Munyerring and Spice Brooks. A sizeable area in the middle of the Julimar state forest is privately owned. I am not sure of the location of that land, but I hope that it will also be incorporated in the ongoing management of this area. The Democrats support the motion.

Hon Peter Foss; Hon John Cowdell; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Mark Nevill; Hon Tom Helm

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**HON GIZ WATSON** (North Metropolitan) [9.15 pm]: The Greens (WA) support this motion. I am speaking on behalf of my colleague Hon Christine Sharp, who is away on parliamentary business, so I am on the back foot on this topic. However, I am interested in one issue. The Attorney referred to this area being zoned an “interim” forest conservation zone. What period does that cover, what does it depend upon, and will it become a permanent forest conservation zone? Knowing how heavily wandoo woodlands have been impacted upon since European settlement and their special value, this is a welcome move. It is good to see that at least one positive achievement has been realised from the regional forest agreement process - it was short on them.

**HON MARK NEVILL** (Mining and Pastoral) [9.17 pm]: I can only visualise the location of this state forest. Apparently it is east of Bindoon and Chittering. It covers a massive area. It is good to have conservation reserves, but I support multiple-use reserves. If this area has some mineral prospectivity - I suspect it does -

Several members interjected.

Hon MARK NEVILL: Hon Giz Watson and Hon Tom Helm laugh. The mining industry has fed him for the past 10 years and royalties from the industry will feed him for another 10 years. A mine in that area might occupy only one or two hectares of those 28 600 hectares. Modern rehabilitation techniques often result in very little or no disturbance. Sometimes we are left with lakes and so on that are beneficial for wildlife. I believe that man-made structures often enhance the environment. Using a few hectares of that area for a mine will not impact on the reserve significantly. Modern methods - including, aeromagnetics, electromagnetism, gravity surveys and stream sediment techniques - do not leave any perceptible mark on the environment. If we were considering the long-term future of this State, we would think more in terms of multiple use rather than isolating areas such as this. The most destructive activities are agriculture and grazing. Damage inflicted by mining is very limited. People should be more realistic in their attitude to this activity.

**HON TOM HELM** (Mining and Pastoral) [9.19 pm]: I, too, support the motion. I make it very clear that my family and I acknowledge how much we owe to the mining industry. I worked in that industry for many years and was lucky enough to be elected to represent the mining area in this place. The lesson learnt by some - not Hon Mark Nevill - is that it is very rare that man can enhance nature. I support this motion because it allows for multiple use of this forest. I have always supported the opportunity for anyone to exploit parts of this State that need exploiting, as long as it is done in a balanced way. I set the record straight: I have never agreed to set aside a conservation area to the exclusion of all else. I supported the Rudall River excision to allow for exploration, and I have witnessed first-hand exploration which is non-intrusive.

Hon Norm Kelly: The excision of Rudall River was for mining, not exploration.

Hon TOM HELM: I know that. I put the record straight so people do not misunderstand where I come from and to where I owe my gratitude. Everybody make mistakes, and the motion allows a responsible attitude to be adopted on this proposal.

**HON PETER FOSS** (East Metropolitan - Attorney General) [9.20 pm]: I thank members for their support of the motion. I have with me the metes and bounds of the forest, which I am happy to provide to Hon Mark Nevill.

I thought I had answered Hon Giz Watson’s query: This remains in the interim stage while the mineral prospectivity is considered. If it appears there is no possibility of mining, it will cease to be interim.

Wandoo has not been destroyed by mining. Mining has disturbed less than 1 per cent of Western Australia's surface. Wandoo has been subject to the devastation of agriculture as wandoo is found on all the best agricultural land. A person who criticised the Regional Forest Agreement farms land on good wandoo country. I support the preservation of wandoo. At the same time, we must not close it off to proper mineral assessment. As Hon Mark Nevill indicated, often very little must be disturbed to recover valuable minerals.

Question put and passed.