

From: [Legislative Council Committee Office](#)
To: [Environment and Public Affairs Committee](#)
Subject: FW: high conservation value forests
Date: Friday, 8 June 2018 8:55:04 AM

From: Adrian Price
Sent: Thursday, 7 June 2018 6:09 PM
To: Legislative Council Committee Office
Subject: high conservation value forests

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair – Legislative Council Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
4 Harvest Tce
WEST PERTH.

Dear Mr Swinbourn,

I respectfully ask that the Committee conduct a full investigation to ensure the greatest protection of our High Conservation Value Forests and give further thought to plantations on private and public lands which may utilise existing cleared land.

Having been a Bunnings logging supervisor and also the timber industry representative of the Dieback logging trials to demonstrate logging in dieback-free forest without introducing or spreading dieback. **None of the trials proved that we can log without introducing dieback** (phytophthora cinnamoni). I was delighted when Labor made pre-election promises to conserve high conservation value forests. It now concerns me greatly that this promise may be broken.

Our High Conservation Value Forests are recognised world wide, not for the timber or woodchip potential but for the associated unique fauna and flora.

Upon leaving the timber industry, I became a Natural Resource Management Officer in four WA Shires. Among my duties was to encourage farmers to diversify into tree plantations on a portion

of the farm, species varied according to soil type, rainfall etc. Some plantations were pine, others Tasmanian blue gum and various other eucalypts with potential for timber or furniture production. These plantations had numerous benefits:

- A crop which generally survives drought.
- Does not require harvesting at a time usually otherwise busy.
- Provided shade/shelter for farm livestock.
- Reduces rising saline water table.
- Provides farm income.
- Insect eating birds controlling blowflies on sheep use trees for protection.
- Provides local employment.

With this in mind, I did a Forestry Science Certificate Course through Melbourne University.

I am not convinced that we can log in native forests without introducing or spreading dieback, which is permanent. My own experience during the Beaton Dieback Logging Trial is that Dept Officers were highly demanding of industry hygiene but very casual of their own actions and interpretation of the prescription. The prescription was compiled by Roger Underwood and Dr Syd Shea (former WA Conservator of Forests), both are retired but still interested in the future of our native forests. I keep corresponding with both.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Price, WA Local Hero-Australian of the Year Awards 2004.