



Information sheet 1 of 6

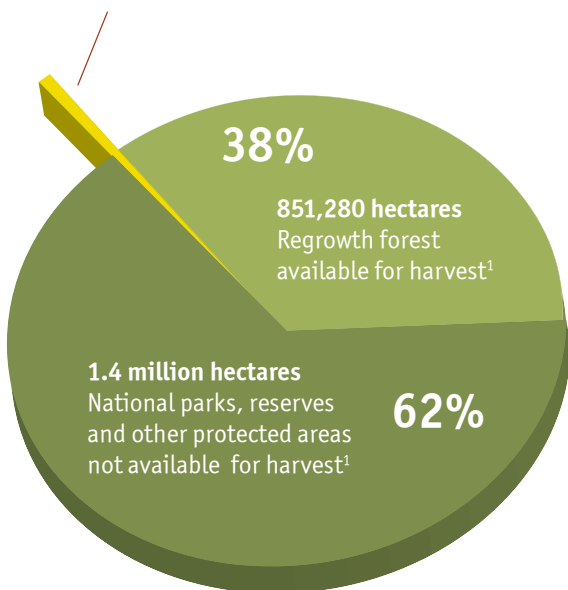
South West native forests in Western Australia

There are approximately 2.25 million hectares of native forest vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission in the South West of Western Australia.¹ Of this more than 1.4 million hectares or 62 per cent is protected in national parks, reserves and other areas not available for harvest including all old-growth forests.

Less than 1% of the total native forest area is harvested annually. Harvested native forest is regenerated.

Some of our major parks and reserves — Lane Poole, Big Brook, Boranup — are in fact regrowth forests, which means they have previously been harvested and successfully regenerated for everyone to enjoy.

Less than 1%
of the total forest area is harvested annually



This graph represents the total native forest estate in the South West under the Forest Management Plan 2014–2023 (2.25 million hectares¹).

Sustainable forest management

Western Australia’s public native forests are sustainably managed within a comprehensive policy and regulatory framework. The Conservation and Parks Commission develops 10-year Forest Management Plans (FMP) which are reviewed by the Environmental Protection Authority and administered by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). The Forest Products Commission (FPC) manages the harvesting and regrowing according to the requirements of the FMP. The FPC enters into contracts to provide and sell timber products.

Forest certification – Timber production from the State’s forests is independently certified to the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) and the international standard for Environmental Management Systems (EMS ISO 14001). This means that our forest harvesting practices have been through a rigorous environmental review process. Certification provides consumers with assurance that their timber products originate from responsibly managed forests.

“In the long-term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest will generate the largest (climate change) mitigation benefit.”

IPCC 2007 Fourth Assessment Report, Mitigation of Climate Change, UNEP & WMO

Biodiversity maintained – After harvesting, forest biodiversity recovers successfully due to regeneration practices and the resilient nature of the forest. Long-term scientific monitoring in the jarrah forest has shown that after 40 years there is no detectable difference in biodiversity between harvested and unharvested forests.



1. Australian Forestry. 2011. A regional journal of forestry science and forest management - special issue: FORESTCHECK, Vol 74, no. 4.



Jarra dining table – Support your local forest industry and local communities by purchasing Western Australia’s sustainably managed timber products.

Why harvest native forest?

Meeting demand – There is strong demand from consumers for Western Australia’s unique timbers. The volume of forest products produced in Australia is insufficient to meet our country’s demand for timber based products. Australia’s net import deficit averages around \$2 billion per year.³ In fact, aside from ongoing native forest timber harvesting, we need to expand our plantations to meet future consumer demand and reduce our reliance on imported timbers, some of which are from sources that are unsustainable and illegally harvested.

Regional employment – The State’s native timber industry is a significant regional employer. Employment includes jobs in forest management, harvesting, transport and primary processing. Additional jobs are also created through indirect employment in regional schools, hospitals and service industries.

Improves forest health – Tree deaths have been occurring due to extended periods of low rainfall and high temperatures. Where trees demand more water than is available, forest thinning and management can mitigate these deaths, increase the flow of clean water to our dams to provide more drinking water, and improve the health of our rivers.

Did you know?

Pest animals such as foxes and cats, land clearing and urban expansion are the main threats to native flora and fauna in Western Australia.

Timber from sustainably managed forests is a renewable resource with significant environmental, social and economic benefits for all Western Australians.

Timber, a natural choice

Trees capture and store CO₂ — a greenhouse gas — and carbon continues to be stored in wood products even after harvesting. As forests get older they reach a state of carbon equilibrium — the carbon they capture each year equals the amount they release through decay. As a result, harvested and regenerated forests capture more carbon from the atmosphere than forests that are not harvested.

Timber insulates 15 times better than concrete, 400 times better than steel and 1,770 times better than aluminium, and is more efficient at heating and cooling.⁴

Far less carbon emissions are produced in the manufacture of timber products than other building materials. By building a house in timber the carbon emissions saved, compared to other materials, are equivalent to running a car for seven years.⁵

Timber is unique among building materials because it continues to store carbon long after the tree is harvested. Up to 50% of timber’s dry weight is carbon.⁷

The common native species used in Western Australia are jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) and marri (*Corymbia calophylla*). The beautiful colours, strength and durability of these unique timbers are widely used in the production of high quality furniture, flooring, decking and joinery. Residue wood from sawlog harvesting is used for other purposes such as charcoal for high grade silicon production, found in every day products we rely on such as computers, mobile phones and solar panels.

Buy local, buy sustainable

Buying Western Australia’s sustainably managed timber products supports local manufacturing and local communities.



3. Australian Bureau, (ABARES). Australia’s forests at a glance 2012 with data to 2010-11. ABARES, Canberra.

4. Forestry Commission England, www.forestry.gov.uk/england

5. Wood products & greenhouse gas impacts, www.naturallywood.com

