

## **The value and use of Western Australia's native forests now and into the future.**

### **Online Survey Participant Information**

#### **Aim of the Study**

The Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Environment; Climate Action, is seeking the views of Western Australians on the value and use of our south-west native forests now and into the future. This consultation is an early opportunity for Western Australians to provide their views before the development of the next Forest Management Plan (FMP). A new FMP for the state's south-west native forests is required every 10 years.

Over the next 12 months, there will be separate consultation to support the development for the next 2024-2033 FMP. The consultation for the next FMP will examine aspects of forest management to a much fuller extent. For example, there will be important targeted consultation and engagement undertaken with traditional owners, industries, the conservation sector and other stakeholders that will occur separately to this survey.

The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI), as an independent research organisation, has been commissioned by the Minister for Environment to undertake this consultation and inform the Minister about the range of views in the community on south-west native forests.

#### **What does participation involve?**

This survey consists of five sections. The first section is about you and how you use south-west native forests in Western Australia (WA). The following three sections are about the value, management and future of the south-west native forests, with the fifth section about broad demographic information. There is an opportunity at the end of the survey to attach any supporting documentation or add comments that you would like to share on this topic. Completion of the survey should take approximately 20 minutes.

#### **Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal from the Study**

Participation in this survey is voluntary and participants can withdraw from the study at any time, without giving an explanation (it should be noted, however, responses submitted anonymously cannot be identified and withdrawn from the dataset once submitted). There are no consequences associated with withdrawal or incomplete submissions.

#### **Your privacy**

Your participation in this study and any information you provide will be treated in a confidential manner. The data will be kept in a non-identifiable format, on a secure server for minimum seven years.

The data will be stored by the University of Western Australia as the Administrating Agent of the Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute.

### **Possible Benefits**

Your participation in this survey will help guide decision-makers as they work to ensure a sustainable future for the unique native forests of Western Australia.

### **Possible Risks and Risk Management Plan**

There are no foreseeable risks associated with participation in this survey.

### **Contacts**

This survey is being conducted by Dr Renee Young & Professor Owen Nevin. If you have questions about this survey please contact the research team at the Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute on (08) 9263 9811 or by emailing [info@wabsi.org.au](mailto:info@wabsi.org.au).

### **Human ethics**

Approval to conduct this research has been provided by the University of Western Australia, in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures (2021/ET000608). Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. In addition, any person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns, and may make any complaints about this research project by contacting the Human Ethics office at UWA on (08) 6488 4703 or by emailing to [humanethics@uwa.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@uwa.edu.au).

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Thank you for taking part in this survey.

The following information outlines a research project being conducted by Owen Nevin and Renee Young at The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute via the University of Western Australia.

You are invited to participate and your involvement is completely voluntary. You may withdraw from the survey at any time. The questionnaire will require approximately 20 minutes to complete. If you agree to participate in the survey, please complete the questions that follow. Your responses will be anonymous and will not be used individually, without approval. This means that it will also not be possible to remove your responses from the database set collected should you wish to withdraw them later. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [info@wabsi.org.au](mailto:info@wabsi.org.au).

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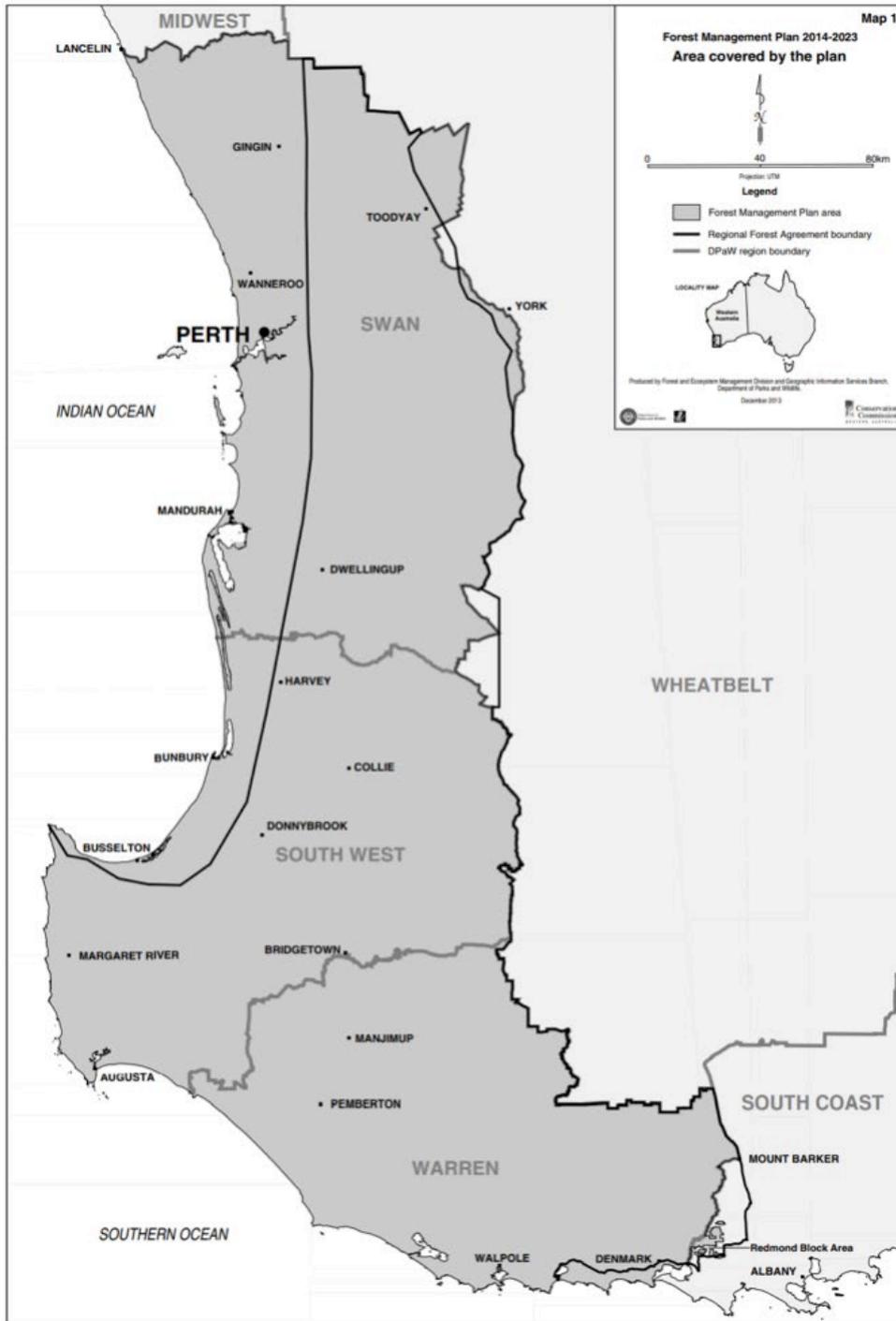
**I have read the information provided and any questions I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in this research project but withdrawal is not possible once data are submitted. I understand that all identifiable information that I provide is treated as confidential and will not be released by the investigator in any form that may identify me unless I have consented to this. The only exception to this principle of confidentiality is if this information is required by law to be released. I consent to participate in this research project. \***

Yes

No

### Background and scope of survey

Western Australia’s national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forests and timber reserves are vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia (Conservation Commission) that are managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on behalf of the Commission for Western Australians. South-west native forests on public lands under the FMP are the subject of this survey, and includes forests covered by the Regional Forest Agreement (see map 1). The scope of this survey does not include areas of public land planted with exotic species (such as pine plantations) or areas of native forests on private (freehold) land.



## **Section 1 - About You**

### **1.1 How do you typically interact with Western Australian south-west native forests?**

(Select one)

- Mostly for business or employment purposes (e.g. timber harvesting, bee-keeping)
- Mostly for personal purposes (e.g. recreation, nature appreciation)
- Mix of both business or employment and personal purposes

#### **Business Name**

(optional)

#### **Name**

(optional)

### **1.2.1 What personal activities do you use WA's south-west native forests for?**

(Select all that apply)

- Bird watching
- Bush walking / hiking
- Photography / Art
- Mountain biking
- Cultural heritage
- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Trail biking
- Camping
- Fishing
- Forest products (including firewood)
- Exercise
- Water sports
- Nature appreciation
- 4-wheel driving
- Scientific research
- Other (describe)

### **1.2.2. How often do you interact with WA's south-west native forests for personal purposes?**

(Select one)

- Most Days
- 1-2 times a week
- 2-3 times a month
- 2-4 times a year
- Once a year
- Less than once a year

### **1.2.3. How long have you been using WA's south-west native forests for these activities?**

- 0-1 years
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- More than 10 years

## **Section 2 - The value of Western Australian Forests**

### **2.1 Which of the following do you value most about WA's south-west native forests? (select your top 3)**

(select your top 3)

- Biological diversity
- Carbon storage
- Commercial use and financial revenue (including employment)
- Culture and heritage (not Aboriginal)
- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Ecosystem services (Ecosystem services are the benefits to humans provided by the natural environment and include services such as food and water; flood and disease control; cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; and supporting services such as nutrient cycling)
- Habitat for threatened species and communities
- Mental health benefits
- Recreation
- Amenity
- Water resources
- Other (describe)

### **2.2 Which of the following aspects of WA's south-west native forests are most important to you?**

(select your top 3)

- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Threatened species and communities
- Culture and heritage (not Aboriginal)
- Old growth forest areas
- Water resources
- Native timber production
- Commercial uses (other than native timber production)
- Forest connectivity (e.g. via wildlife corridors)
- Recreation
- Carbon storage
- Biodiversity
- Other (describe)

### **2.3 Which of the following are most important to manage in our south-west native forests?**

(select your top 3)

- Weeds

- Uncontrolled vehicle access
- Mining (including exploration)
- Pest animals (e.g. feral cats, foxes, pigs)
- Infrastructure and facility development (e.g. tracks)
- Carbon storage
- Native timber harvesting
- Disease (e.g. Phytophthora dieback)
- Habitat fragmentation
- General degradation
- Climate change
- Fire
- Inappropriate recreational use
- Unauthorised firewood collection
- Other (describe)

### **Section 3 - Management of Western Australian Forests**

Ecologically sustainable forest management seeks to conserve biodiversity and ecological integrity, while continuing to provide ongoing social and economic benefits to the community.

#### **3.1 How sustainable do you think the following activities are in WA's native forests?**

	<b>Highly sustainable</b>	<b>Somewhat sustainable</b>	<b>Not sure</b>	<b>Somewhat unsustainable</b>	<b>Very unsustainable</b>
<b>Apiary (bee keeping)</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Artisan timber products (e.g. for furniture making)</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Carbon storage</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Native timber harvesting (e.g. jarrah, karri, marri or wandoo)</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Mining</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Tourism</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Recreation</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Firewood collection</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Native seed collection and flower picking</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

#### **3.2 Are there opportunities for sustainable growth in activities/industries in WA's south-west native forests?**

- No
- Not sure
- Yes

#### **3.3 Are there any barriers that need to be overcome to unlock the potential for sustainable activities/industries in WA's south-west native forests?**

- Yes
- No

Not sure

**3.4 In State forests and timber reserves, currently around 1 % of public native forests are made available each year for the timber harvesting industry that supports jobs in Western Australia. When is this practice appropriate?**

(select all that apply)

- In any forest areas
- In some areas but not along rivers and streams (riparian zones)
- In some areas but not where there are cultural or heritage significant areas or trees
- In some areas but not in old growth forest
- For high value products, such as furniture making
- It is never appropriate
- It is appropriate in some circumstances
- Other (describe)

**3.5 Thinking about carbon storage specifically, could there be an opportunity for WA's south-west native forests to play a role in generating Australian Carbon Credit Units or other carbon credits? If unsure, click 'don't know'.**

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Don't know

**3.6 Thinking about old growth forests specifically, if old growth is defined as "forest that is ecologically mature, where the effects of unnatural disturbance are now negligible", do you think this definition is appropriate?**

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Don't know

**3.7 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (agree, neutral, disagree, unsure)**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unsure
Climate change presents a threat to Western Australian south-west native forests	<input type="radio"/>					
Retaining south-west native forests is important for carbon capture and storage	<input type="radio"/>					
Western Australian south-west native forests are important for threatened species and communities	<input type="radio"/>					
Western Australian south-west native forests are important for biodiversity conservation	<input type="radio"/>					
The collection of firewood from south-west native forests is ecologically sustainable	<input type="radio"/>					
Having native forests near Perth and regional towns adds to quality of life	<input type="radio"/>					
Western Australian native forests need to be actively managed	<input type="radio"/>					
Having access to Western Australian native forests is important	<input type="radio"/>					

Harvesting of native forests should continue at current levels	<input type="radio"/>					
More areas of native forest should be protected	<input type="radio"/>					
More should be done to get people to enjoy our native forests	<input type="radio"/>					
Native timber jobs are important to local communities	<input type="radio"/>					
Fewer areas of native forest should be available for timber harvesting	<input type="radio"/>					
More areas of native forest should be available for timber harvesting	<input type="radio"/>					
No native forest harvesting should occur	<input type="radio"/>					

## Section 4 - The future of Western Australian Forests

Western Australia's climate has changed during the past century, with our State's south-west region impacted by climate change more than almost any other place on the planet. We have seen higher average temperatures, and an increase in the annual number of days in Perth over 35 degrees. There has also been a steady decline in rainfall, with a 60 per cent reduction of inflow to metropolitan dams since the 1970s. Already one of the most fire-prone regions in the world, WA's fire risk has increased over the past four decades, and fire seasons have lengthened due to warming, drying conditions. In the future, climate change will drive increased average and maximum temperatures, time spent in drought and lead to more extreme weather events. In the south-west, the prolonged period of drying will continue, affecting primary industries, water security and natural ecosystems.

Western Australia has a range of management strategies aimed at protecting the south-west native forests and the communities that live in the area. These include, but are not limited to, strategies to conserve biodiversity, collection of firewood, fire management, forest health, mining, native seed collection and flower picking, native timber harvesting, recreation and tourism and other commercial activities.

### **4.1 Will all current management practices and industries operating in the south-west native forests be appropriate under an altered climate? \***

(select one)

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

### **4.2 What practices need to change and why (optional)?**

- Fire management
- Management for forest health
- Recreation and tourism access
- Native timber harvesting
- Collection of firewood
- Native seed collection or flower picking
- Mining
- Biodiversity and conservation strategies
- Other commercial activities (not timber harvesting or mining)
- None
- Other (describe)

**4.3 How would you like to see the south-west native forests used in the future?****4.4 How do you think forests should be managed to support a sustainable future?****Section 5 - Additional details**

For statistical purposes, we would also like to collect some information about you.

**5.1 What is your postcode of residence/business \*****5.2 What is your age? \***

(select one)

- Less than 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75 or older
- I prefer not to answer
- I am responding on behalf of a business/organisation

**5.3 What is your gender? \***

(select one)

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary/third gender
- I prefer not to answer
- Other (describe)

**5.4 What is your highest level of educational attainment?**

(select one)

- Still in school
- Some high school
- Cert I or II (Vocational training)
- Completed high school
- Cert III or IV (Vocational training)
- Diploma or Advanced Diploma
- Undergraduate (Bachelor) Degree
- Graduate Certificate or Diploma
- Postgraduate (Master or Doctoral) Degree
- I prefer not to answer

**5.5 What is your household income (before tax)?**

(select one)

- Less than \$15,599 (less than \$299 per week)
- \$15,600 - \$25,999 (\$300 - \$499 per week)
- \$26,000 - \$51,999 (\$500 - \$999 per week)
- \$52,000 - \$77,999 (\$1,000 - \$1,499 per week)
- \$78,000 - \$129,999 (\$1,500 - \$2,499 per week)
- \$130,000 - \$207,999 (\$2,500 - \$3,999 per week)
- \$208,000 - \$415,999 (\$4,000 - \$7,999 per week)
- More than \$416,000 (more than \$8,000 per week)
- I prefer not to answer

**5.6 What industry do you work in?**

(select one)

- Accommodation and Food Services
- Administrative and Support Services
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- Arts and Recreation Services
- Construction
- Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services
- Financial and Insurance Services
- Government
- Higher Education
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Information Media and Telecommunications
- Mining
- Manufacturing
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
- Public Administration and Safety

- Primary and Secondary Education
- Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services
- Retail Trade
- Training
- Transport, Postal and Warehousing
- Wholesale Trade
- Unemployed
- Retired
- I prefer to not answer
- Other (describe)

**5.7 If you have any additional comments about the WA native forests that were not addressed in the survey questions, please feel free to provide them here.**

**5.8 If you have any specific relevant attachments, please feel free to attach them to your response.**

**5.9 Can we get in contact with you if we have follow-up questions? \***

- Yes
- No

**Name**

**Phone**

**Email**

Thank you for participating in this survey. Your responses are much appreciated.  
If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please feel free to contact [survey@wabsi.org.au](mailto:survey@wabsi.org.au)