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Regional Forest Agreement for the South-West Forest Region of Western Australia
Project Officer, Office of the Director
Sustainable Forest Management
Department of Parks and Wildlife
Locked Bag 104
BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE WA 6983

Dear Dr Stoneman and Mr McNamara,

***A REPORT ON PROGRESS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT FOR THE SOUTH-WEST FOREST REGION
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA***

The Department of Water (DoW) has a significant interest in forest management as a tool for managing both the quantity and quality of water within forested surface and groundwater systems.

The DoW has reviewed the document referred to above, and notes that a number of the clauses relating to hydrological impacts of forest management, to which the parties agreed, have been achieved in the 14 years since the WA Regional Forest Agreement was signed.

The DoW also notes that one of the milestones has been achieved in part: *Milestone 2: Developing and publishing policy related to productive capacity of former mine sites, maintenance of carbon and hydrological cycles, and natural and cultural heritage, in relevant Forest Management Systems.*

Status: Achieved in part. The Forest Management Plan provides policy direction accompanied by management activities e.g. actions at an operational scale to protect the ecological integrity and quality of streams and wetlands and increase the flow of water to surface and groundwater reservoirs.

Consistent with this milestone, please be aware that in the DoW's submission to the Draft Forest Management Plan 2014–23, the DoW was agreeable to approaches within the document and offers particular support for the 'Silviculture for water production' management option discussed. This would need to be supported by the development of catchment management plans, and special provisions for protection of water quality in public drinking water source areas. The DoW continues to work with Department of Parks and Wildlife to ensure that hydrological considerations are adequately incorporated in forest management planning in the south-west forested area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above mentioned report. Should you require further information please contact Ms Keren Raiter of the Department of Water on telephone 6364 7867 or email keren.raiter@water.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G.K. Claydon'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Greg Claydon
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SCIENCE AND PLANNING

13 September 2013