The Hon Wilson Tuckey MP

Minister for Forestry and Conservation
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister

FAXED 16/8/99

Mr Tim Anderson
President
Wombat Forest Society
PO Box 428
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16 AUG 1999

Dear Mr Anderson

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 1999 requesting that Professor Brian Turner be engaged to review the sustainable yield methodology in the Midlands Forest Management Area as part of the West Regional Forest Agreement (RFA). The Hon Michael Ronaldson has also written to me in support of your proposal.

I have passed your paper on sustainable yield issues to the Bureau of Rural Sciences to examine as part of the RFA process. I understand that the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment is also undertaking additional work covering the issues raised by the Society.

The basis of the sustainable yield calculations in the Midlands is described in the first volume of the Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) report for the West Region, published on 6 August 1999. As you are aware, Professor Brian Turner of the Australian National University was involved in reviewing the application of the Integrated Forest Planning Systems (IFPS) in the Midlands in 1995 and his work is referenced in the CRA.

A number of other independent reviews of the sustainable yield systems in Victoria have already been undertaken and reported in previous RFA documentation. These have endorsed and accredited the State-wide Forest Resource Inventory (SFRI) system proposed for the West over the next year or two, as well as the IFPS. Given comments by Ms Duclos at our meeting that the Wombat Society had confidence in the results of the SFRI methodology I am sure you will welcome its application in the Midlands.

As part of the RFA process I propose to ask Professor Ian Ferguson and Professor Turner to prepare a report for the joint Commonwealth State RFA Steering Committee on the matters raised in your paper. I anticipate that this work would be reported in the Directions Report for the West RFA, during October 1999. I agree that this advice is an important step towards ensuring that the outcome has the confidence and support of all stakeholders.

The next review of sustainable yield for the Midlands is due in 2001, in accordance with Victorian legislation, and will take into account the outcome of the RFA and any other relevant information, including the work outlined above. I look forward to your continued involvement in the West RFA over the next few months.

Yours sincerely

Wilson Tuckey

Wilson Tuckey MP

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