

**Clarke, John** (from linked In)



Graduated with BSc Forestry from ANU in 1975. 35 years experience as a forester, District Manager, fire officer with Department of CALM. With Forests Department at Pemberton in late 1970s, then District Manager. Promoted to Senior Procurement Officer in Hardwood Resources Branch in 1988. Manager of CALM Forest Resources Services in late 1990s. Manager Business Operations Branch and Strategic Contracts Manager with the Forest Products Commission in early 2000s. In 2010s, part time consultant and chair of the WA Division of the Institute of Foresters of Australia.

#### **News item: Foresters say forest management debate not needed**

Ongoing debates on forest management are unnecessary according to professional foresters. John Clarke, Chair of the Western Australia division of the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) and a professional forester stressed that the IFA is not part of any government agenda and concerns itself purely on the health and well being of forests. He also expressed disappointment over what he believed to be "myth-making" by the conservation activist and protesters. "There are 2.4 million hectares of native forest in the South West," he said. "Approximately 65 per cent cannot be harvested, leaving 35 per cent available for timber production on a sustainable basis." quoted Clarke. According to Clarke, logging is not widespread and occurred on a per need basis. "It amazes all the IFA members how much fuss is being made of the approximately 0.5 per cent of total forest mass which is harvested each year,"

He added that logged forests were regenerated and that protesters must understand that only little was logged to produce products humans needed. "I guess it is just that some people cannot handle a tree being felled, just like some people find it hard to witness or think about cattle, pigs, chooks or fish being killed," Mr. Clarke said.

Many of the forests admired by residents and tourists in Western Australia were not old growth but regrowth. "The Boranup forest, now a national park, isn't old growth," he said. "The forest we admire is 100 per cent regrowth. It was clear-felled late in the 19th century, a testament to the regenerative power of our native forests. Many areas of forest are similar. Consider the magnificent jarrah regrowth forests stretching through Kirup and Balingup, Bridgetown and Nannup. These forests have been harvested for timber on more than one occasion."

Clarke also said that 5000 people were employed in the social and economic fabric generated by the timber industry. He also commented over the concern of conservationists over the threats to endangered species. "The real threats to our species are well known," he said. "Habitat loss happens when forest is permanently cleared, not when it is sustainably harvested."

JC Forestry October 2011 – , Perth, WA.

Chair, WA Division Institute of Foresters of Australia 2011 – .

Numerous managerial positions WA Forest agencies 1975 – 2011 Numerous positions in the WA Forests Department, Department of Conservation and Land Management and Forest Products Commission.