

As part of the Commission's role to ensure the sustainable management of the State's timbers, it promotes and educates industry and the community about the uniqueness and value adding opportunities available with Western Australia's timbers and end products.



The award-winning Wave dining suite made of WA jarrah, attracted enormous interest at the San Francisco Mart, January 2003.

Furnishing Industry Association

Ongoing assistance was provided to the Furnishing Industry Association of Australia's Western Australian branch (FIAA (WA)) and its furniture manufacturers to enable them to become more progressive in design manufacturing and exporting.

The Commission was the 'Platinum' sponsor of the FIAA Western Australian and Australian Furniture of the Year Awards, in November 2002. Western Australian manufacturers won six of the 11 national award categories.

Design Research Centre

The Design Research Centre (DRC) was established as a centre of excellence in furniture design, in the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts, at the University of Western Australia (UWA).

A joint furniture design workshop titled the 'Furniture Enterprise Workshop' was established through the collaborative efforts of UWA, FIAA (WA), the Department of Industry and Resources, and the Commission.

The workshop brought four teams of designers and manufacturers together. The Commission provided technical advice and market assistance to the teams who created proto type products, which were launched in WA in May 2003.

Craftwood licences

The government's 'Protecting Our Old Growth Forests' policy included a commitment to create a craftwood licensing system for local craftspeople and artisans. Licences were only to be granted to Western Australian artisans and craftspeople who produce their work locally.

The Commission has undertaken an industry consultation survey and interviewed 40 prominent craftspeople, gallery owners and suppliers throughout the South-West and metropolitan area. Further consultation is expected before a final strategy is approved for implementation.

Australian School of Fine Wood

The Commission continued its contribution to the Forest Heritage Centre in Dwellingup, now referred to as the Australian School of Fine Wood, during 2002/03.

A provider of quality workshops and courses, the school held a world-class exhibition titled the 'Seduction of Wood', in 2002.

During the financial year, 48 individual courses were run and 381 participants were taught about the construction of exquisite furniture and giftware using predominantly Western Australian timbers.

The Commission contributes to the salary and vehicle running expenses of the school's General Manager.



The Timber Display home at the Advisory Centre in Wembley.

Timber Advisory Centre

More than 3,000 people per week venture into the Timber Advisory Centre in Wembley to view Western Australian timber products. The Commission contributes \$20 000 a year towards the Centre's management and is represented on the council.

The State's focus on the use of pine as the main roof and wall-framing timber has meant new instruction is required for architects, designers, builders and the trades. Seminars are run within the Centre and timber advisors are available to provide information on the use and application of various timber products.

Furniture manufacturing and exports

The Commission's Timber Technology and Industry Development branches provide technical information to the furniture industry on the characteristics and qualities of local timbers and their use in newly designed and manufactured timber furniture.

Knowledge and understanding about timber movement, stability and finishing are readily provided to aid international marketing and promotion.

The Furnishing Industry Association of Australia's WA branch (FIAA (WA)) has continued its marketing efforts in North America, attending the San Francisco Market in July 2002 and January 2003. Jarrah has become more widely known throughout the region for its use in both indoor and outdoor furniture.

Informing the community

The Commission has participated in the following events in an effort to further inform the broader community about its objectives, the State's timbers and the many value adding uses of our timber products:

- Dowerin Field Days
- Manjimup Horticultural and Forestry Expo
- WA Farmers Federation annual conference
- Wagin Woolarama
- Working with Wood Show
- Mount Barker Agricultural Show
- Australian Forest Growers National Conference
- School of Wood exhibition
- numerous field days
- Swanbourne Primary School planting



Swanbourne Primary School children plant seedlings in partnership with the Commission.