

Preface

State Forests of NSW

Since the early 1900's, State Forests (formerly the Forestry Commission) has been managing the public production forests of NSW to reflect public expectations. Public values have changed over time with changes in society's economic wealth, expectations and aspirations. As a result, State Forests' management has also changed.

Forest management the last century began by dedicating lands as State forest and protecting them from unchecked timber harvesting. Following World War II the focus changed to efficient and sustained timber production from native forests and the development of a large and highly productive radiata pine plantation resource.

Now, as State Forests moves towards its second century of management, it has evolved its philosophy and focus to reflect contemporary public aspirations. State Forests regards itself as a custodian of public forests for future generations. It manages for a broad range of values including biodiversity conservation, protection of the land resource, preservation of aesthetic, spiritual and cultural heritage values and the provision of a range of goods and services that only forest can provide. Naturally, the significant changes in social, economic and environmental values and management philosophy have caused changes to the type of silviculture that State Forests practices.

George Baur was the Forestry Commission's Silviculturist during the 1970s and 1980s. He compiled a series of notes on the silvics and silviculture of NSW native forests. Many of the policies and management plans that Baur refers to have been superseded and some aspects of the silviculture discussed in the notes are no longer appropriate.

The notes represent a unique historical record, a keen insight into ecological processes and a window into the State's silviculture heritage. They document the development and practice of past silvicultural management. They also summarise a range of silvical, ecological and other scientific information, some of which is not readily available elsewhere.

It is in this context that State Forests is pleased to support the publication of George Baur's notes, and acknowledges his unique and very valuable contribution to forest management and silviculture in New South Wales' public forests.

Congratulations to the IFA for the compilation work to provide greater access to the collected knowledge and experience of NSW forest types encapsulated in these silvicultural notes.

Bob Smith
Chief Executive