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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
FOREST ALLIANCE

Ancient karri forests safe in 2020

Minister Kelly announces that there will be no logging of two-tiered karri forests in 2020

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Today, Forestry Minister Hon. Dave Kelly has announced that there will be no logging of what is known as 'two-tiered' karri forests in 2020.

"This is excellent news for the forests and wildlife, the karri forest river systems, the climate and the Western Australian community," said Jess Beckerling, WA Forest Alliance convener.

"Firstly, we want to say a huge thank you and congratulations to all the people who have stood up for the karri forests by writing letters, phoning Ministers, sharing posts on social media, joining marches and actions, and blockading in the forests. And we want to say a huge thank you to Minister Kelly for listening to the community and placing this long-awaited freeze on the logging of two-tiered karri forests.

"Two-tiered karri forests are those karri forests such as in Lewin, Nelson and Channybearup which we successfully defended in 2019, that were subject to light, selective logging last century, usually before chainsaws, and that retain old-growth values. They look and feel like old-growth karri forests, but the narrow definition of old-growth being used in WA means that they have been disqualified from protection until now.

"It's been a long time coming but today the chainsaws and bulldozers have been pulled out of the remaining old-growth karri forests in the South West that missed on protection because of the narrow definition of old-growth in place in WA.

"Temporary protections such as these are very often the first step in permanent protection and the WA Forest Alliance will continue to campaign for the two-tiered karri to be fully and securely protected, while we also work towards urgent protections for the South West's other native forests, particularly the remaining high conservation value jarrah forests.

"This freeze on logging applies to approximately 9000 ha of magnificent ancient karri forests that extend from west of Bridgetown to south of Northcliffe, fringing river systems and providing critical habitat for wildlife. They store huge volumes of carbon and maintain water quality and river health in the main karri belt of the South West.

"There is some fine print. Individual old-growth trees in regrowth areas can still be logged, and small and irregularly shaped old-growth and two-tiered karri forests that don't meet the minimum area of two hectares can still be logged. We will continue campaigning for those trees and forests to be protected.

"WAF extends our sincere gratitude and congratulations to Minister Kelly for the best news for the forests in nearly 20 years," said Ms Beckerling.

Contact: Jess Beckerling | 0488 777 592