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Enquiries to: Brett Flugge, Executive Manager Strategic Development

1 October 2013

Department of Parks and Wildlife
Project Officer
Office of the Director, Sustainable Forest Management
Locked Bag 104
BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE WA 6983

Dear Sir

Regional Forest Agreement for the South West Forest Region of Western Australia

The Shire of Murray appreciates the opportunity to comment on this Progress Report and notes that most of the actions listed have been achieved within the stated milestone timelines.

Under Section 5.6 – Industry Development, the report makes reference to the Forest Products Commission contribution towards supporting the Forest Heritage Centre at Dwellingup and the Australian School of Fine Wood which offered education and training for the fine wood furniture industry, forest management and interpretation and sales of fine wood products. Unfortunately the Fine Wood School has since closed due to a drop in student numbers. It is understood the Heritage Centre now offers mainly arts and craft type facilities and short stay accommodation.

The Shire also notes the significant financial investment for nature based tourism throughout the South West, complimenting implementation of the Forest Management Plan.

The Shire of Murray seeks clarification as to how much of the \$50 million investment has been directed towards upgrading of tourist facilities within the Dwellingup locality. More recently the State Government has allocated \$2.1 million towards expansion of the Baden Powell Camp Ground at Lane Poole Reserve which was carried out by Department of Environment and Conservation.

The Minister for the Environment has also announced funding of \$2 million to go towards re-development of Nanga Mill Camp Ground to provide additional camp sites, specifically for caravans, and a further \$1 million being allocated to upgrades at Lane Poole Reserve including re-developing Baden Powell Day Use area.

ATTN: ANDREA AGOS.

The Shire of Murray strongly supports these tourist accommodation initiatives within the State Forest area to cater for the substantial population growth forecast within the Perth Metropolitan and Peel Region over the next 20 years.

The Shire of Murray looks forward to the release of the final Forest Management Plan 2014 – 2023.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Flugge', written in a cursive style.

Brett Flugge
Executive Manager Strategic Development