

- make consumers aware of the Commission's views about such claims; and
- encourage industry to self-regulate by developing codes of practice for advertising and promotion, and systems for dealing with complaints.

The Commission says that it believes that compliance with the Guideline will help:

- ensure that consumers and ethical traders are not disadvantaged by false and misleading claims about the environmental impact of products; and
- encourage product innovation and competition based on truthful and informative claims of environment benefit.

This Guideline offers guidance on the approach the Commission will adopt in carrying out its functions to enforce the provisions of the Trade Practices Act. It does not have the force of law and, accordingly, it is not intended to supplant legal advice on the application of the law in particular circumstances. Federal, State and Territory courts will apply the law in particular cases according to the facts and circumstances presented to them and the principles established in the many cases decided under the Trade Practices Act.

THE AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Sydney planner Mrs Sonja Lyneham became Chairman of the Commission on December 16, 1991. She replaced Mr Tony Fitzgerald, AC QC, who resigned to become President of the Queensland Court of Appeal.

Also, on 5 February 1992 the Federal and Western Australian Governments announced that a memorandum of understanding between the Australian Heritage Commission and the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management ("CALM") aimed at resolving conflicts between the two organisations and setting out an agreed basis for applying the results of joint work carried out in relation to Western Australian forests.

In the MOU CALM states that it will protect national estate values on CALM land in the WA southern forests region while maintaining timber

volumes to industry as specified in its 1987 Timber Strategy and other forest values specified in its 1992 draft Forests Strategy.

FOREST AND TIMBER INQUIRY FINAL REPORT

The RAC has announced that Justice Stewart, the chairperson of that organisation, will forward the Final Report of the Forest and Timber Inquiry to the Prime Minister at the end of March.

The RAC says the two-volume report will be shorter than the draft report released in July 1991 and differs from that report in that it will concentrate more on options for government action and administrative solutions.

The terms of reference for the Inquiry were issued by the Prime Minister (Hawke) on 26 November 1989.

COASTAL ZONE INQUIRY

The RAC has announced the appointment of three special commissioners to assist it with the Inquiry.

The new commissioners are:

Mr Bob Graham, Senior Lecturer in Urban Geography at the University of Tasmania and Director of the commercial consultancy division of TASUNI Research;

Dr Gregory McColl, formerly Director of the Centre for Applied Economic Research at the University of New South Wales; and

Mr Alan Oxley, Managing Director of International Trade Strategies Pty Ltd, a strategic adviser to business and a leading analyst of international trends and trade issues.

The focus of the Inquiry will be the use of Australia's coastal resources and the integrated management of building, tourism, Mariculture and associated development. The terms of reference were given to the RAC by the Prime Minister (Hawke) in October 1991.
