



CALM BRIEFING PAPER 3/89

CALM'S NURSERY AND SEED CENTRE OPERATIONS

Following a review of the Department's role in nurseries a decision was made to rationalise CALM nurseries in the South-West. This involves the withdrawal from some areas of public sale (Hamel nursery) and amalgamation of other CALM nurseries (e.g. Karratha and Broome nurseries are amalgamated at Broome). Amalgamation provides the opportunity to reduce costs by economies of scale, and to concentrate nursery expertise in fewer centres. A search for suitable sites in the South-West resulted in the decision to base a new amalgamated nursery on the existing site at Manjimup, while retaining the existing nursery at Narrogin.

Coincidentally the Bluegum Sharefarming Project led to a much increased demand for nursery stock to be produced by CALM and this is also being catered for at Manjimup.

Because of the relationship between seed and nurseries and because most of the bulk seed handling is already done at Manjimup it was also decided to transfer CALM's Seed Centre from Como to Manjimup as part of the amalgamation.

When complete the following functions will be carried out at the new complex:

- * all karri open-rooted and container stock production
- * container stock for the Wellington catchment
- * container stock for CALM reforestation in the South-West
- * 'large order' private sales and contracts
- * container seedlings for the Tree Trust
- * all pine seedlings and cuttings
- * seed extraction for karri, pine and other bulk collections
- * seed cleaning, testing and storage of all CALM seed
- * pine seed orchards (open pollenated and HAPSO) and pollen management
- * other selected seed orchards
- * pine and hardwood mother plant production for cuttings
- * nursery production research facilities

The nursery will have a capacity of 13 million seedlings with possible expansion to 20 million. It will be by far the largest nursery facility in Australia.

Administration

The complex will be managed by the Plant Propagation Section of Silviculture Branch and staff positions will be advertised progressively.

Development Timetable

Already completed:

1. Redevelopment and expansion of container stock facilities to produce 7 million eucalypt seedlings.
2. Closure of Nannup *P. radiata* production (*P. radiata* and *P. pinaster* will be raised at Gnangara until this nursery closes in 1990).

To be completed by the end of 1988/89:

1. Construction of the office, seed laboratory, seed cleaning shed and store.
2. Transfer of Seed Centre from Como to Manjimup.
3. Construction of new dam.

To be completed during 1989/90:

1. Prepare pine beds and install irrigation.
2. Establish mother plant hedges.
3. Prepare for sowing the first pine crop at Manjimup (winter 1990).
4. Complete container development and site works.

To be completed during 1990/91:

1. Closure of Gnangara nursery after lifting in winter 1990.
2. Construction of pollen laboratory.
3. HAPSO irrigation installation.
4. Pine packing shed and seedling coolstore.

Any questions about the project can be directed to Jack Bradshaw, Manager Silviculture Branch.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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