Public participation workshop for Corporate

Executive

MEMBERS of the Corporate Executive are among the latest Department personnel to take part in public participation training.

Acting Executive Director Keiran McNamara, along with Directors and their policy advisors, attended a public participation workshop in late April at Wollaston Conference Centre in Mt Claremont.

"The workshop was designed to give Corporate Executive an overview of the content of the Department's public participation training program, as well as an understanding of what's involved with the various forms of public participation used by staff," said Director of Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Ron Kawalilak.

"The workshop was also an opportunity to report back to Corporate Executive on the outcomes and the feedback from the public participation training program being conducted for staff."

To date, more than 160 staff from the Department and from the Forest Products Commission have taken part in seven two-day workshops. An eighth workshop for 22 staff is scheduled for late June in Mandurah.

"Another aim of the workshop was to build an understanding amongst Directors of what is required to further develop, within the Department,



Roberta Meade (right) discusses the public participation planning process with Acting Executive Director Keiran McNamara and Director of Parks and Visitor Services, Jim Sharp. Photo by Ernie McLintock

public participation competencies and a culture of partnership with the community," said Ron.

"Maintaining community involvement and support is a key result area for the Department and an everimproving public participation program is one way to achieve that.

"Ongoing understanding, support and encouragement from Corporate Executive is necessary to ensure working in partnership with the community is a reality throughout the Department.

"Directors are aware of this and that's why they wanted the workshop."

Additional steps to support public participation within the Department will be discussed at an upcoming meeting of Corporate Executive.

The workshop was organised by

Senior Project Officer Tammie Reid, and was delivered with the assistance of Gae Synnott and Roberta Meade, who have been heavily involved with the Department's public participation training program for the past 20 months.

Corporate Executive is planning future similar workshops with a cross-cultural awareness training workshop being developed.

