

# Jarrah forest under scrutiny

By GREG STRELEIN

A new inventory of the jarrah forest to update information on the timber resources available will be undertaken following the recent release of the Timber Strategy.

The new inventory will record the defects in a tree or the wood quality, rather than assess products, as is done now.

Product assessment has been useful for short term applications such as logging plans, but this information is quickly dated by changing utilisation standards and the development of new products.

With the move to a broad resource inventory the data will last many years, justifying the time and money committed.

To make the information more lasting, the Inventory Staff will describe the various qualities of wood in the tree, the type of defects and the amount or intensity of the defect.

By describing the amount of rot, for example, and its position in the tree we can determine at any time in the future which products can be obtained from that quality of log.

Calculating the volumes for any product at the current standards can be done by sorting through all the defects and also checking that the length and diameter are adequate.

Staff from the Utilisation Branch and experienced Procurement staff have been assisting with the classification and description of wood qualities.

The mill at Harvey's Wood Utilisation Research Centre has been the scene for some trial sawing to look at internal defects.

Estimating internal defects has always been one of the limitations of this sort of assessment.

To help resolve this, staff from the Inventory Branch gathered at Harvey with Utilisation staff to break down a sample of logs on the new horizontal bandsaw.

This permitted a look at the internal development of defects in relation to the external appearance of logs to be assessed.



CALM staff examine the exterior of a jarrah log before it is sawn, to determine its defects.

## Disaster action ends

AN Australia-wide system of handling any disaster, be it fire, flood, oil spill or whale rescue, has been endorsed by the Australian Fire Control Officers Group, which held their biannual meeting in Bunbury recently.

The group was comprised of senior fire control officers from each State, the lecturer in fire from ANU, fire researchers and representatives from New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

CALM Senior Fire Control Officer Rick Sneeuw-jagt said: "The Australian Interagency Incident Management System (AIIMS) would see that every State had compatible emergency organisations, training, equipment and definition of terms, so that

effective interstate cooperation would be possible in future."

Rick said the group's basic aim was to review progress over the last two

years in various developments, such as fire planning, equipment and policies, and related matters such as weather forecast system.

## Herbarium transfer

AS a result of a recent recommendation by the Government's Functional Review Committee, the State Herbarium will be transferred from the Department of Agriculture to CALM.

The decision has been greeted with enthusiasm by CALM scientific and operations staff.

Executive Director Dr Syd Shea said the decision was great news.

"It will bring into our Department a fine group of botanists with a tremendous knowledge of Western Australian plants," he said.

"Their expertise will be of great value in planning and research, in developing

our knowledge promoting preservation."

The Herbarium is adjacent to CALM.

It contains the State's flora.

To facilitate CALM, a Herbarium has been formed of sub-committees on various aspects.

It is expected the Herbarium's management of Agriculture completed by year.