

# REGROWTH KARRI TREATMENT TRIALS

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**SEVERAL operational trials recently started by Manjimup Research staff and districts in the Southern Forest Region will help evaluate alternative treatments for young regrowth.**

Results from two trials should assist managers in making the appropriate choice of a combination of thinning and burning techniques.

By about age 15 most karri stands would benefit from thinning to maximise the growth potential of the best trees and salvage the wood in stems that would otherwise die.

At the same time young stands have also reached the stage where future crop trees are taller and thick-barked enough to withstand low intensity fire.

The first trial involved prescribed burning of 40ha of 17-year-old karri forest in Gray Block, Manjimup District, with techniques developed by Fire Research staff at Manjimup.

Half the area was thinned along parallel strips; half thinned to the best 200 trees/ha, which had been marked for retention.

The Warren stand had been burnt only two years before in another trial, and so had only low quantities of fuel, which meant that the thinning debris could be burnt with little risk of damage to the retained trees.

The thinning was aided by good visibility in the re-

cently burnt stand, and allowed any trees damaged by the initial fire to be removed.

The results of this treatment will be compared with those from other trials where similar regrowth has been thinned without a prior burn.

Given the large area and variable nature of the regrowth forest, it is likely that various combinations of thinning and burning will be done in different stands.

## E. Perth cemetery history written