



*Forest ranger Mort Nilsson measures the diameter of trees felled in the Mungilup plantation (see story on page 6).*

# Collie success with people

An example of how CALM can communicate its objectives to the public about potentially sensitive issues was seen in Collie recently.

As Collie District began clear-felling the Mungalup plantation, clearly seen from the road in to and out of Collie, bordering the backwaters of Wellington Weir, its staff talked to local media and the public about its operations, with special emphasis on CALM's Visual Resource Management.

Collie forest ranger Mort Nilsson said that although the plantation had been developed specifically for timber production on cleared farm land, it had become a scenic part of the local landscape.

The Department's policy on managing operations for the visual resource meant that a balance had to be struck between what people saw from the road, and what was taken out of the plantation.

As a result of informing people about the operation and the rationale behind it, CALM received

no negative feedback about the clearfelling, and was instead the subject of a letter of praise published in The Collie Mail.

"We supplied the timber required, and haven't cut outside the Visual Resource Management boundaries," Mort said.

VRM coordinator Grant Revell worked with Collie and Bunbury foresters to achieve a balance.

The plantation is now being logged in two stages; the first logged area will be replanted next season and the trees allowed to grow to two metres tall before the second stage - highly visible to the public - is logged.

A strip of native vegetation along the edge of the Wellington dam is being left.

Timber taken from the plantation - peeler logs - will be used as veneer and plywood. Large diameter debris left from clearfelling is being burned, with branches and small pine wildlings crushed and rolled to be left as humus for the next crop.

*(see photo page 1)*

