

# Plans for demonstration forest

**THE development of the timber management component of Collie's demonstration forest at Wellington Mills is on track and, it is hoped, will be opened for the first public tour this autumn.**

A small area within the 450 ha forest which adjoins a Ministry of Sport and Recreation cottage camp, has been treated.

Current CALM silvicultural prescriptions have been used, to make it easy for people to see for themselves what thinned and unthinned stands look like, what a regeneration gap is and also some of the timber products.

## Real model

Collie forester Jim Raper who has been overseeing the timber project said the idea is to make sure it is a real model of how CALM operates in the forest.

"There is no intention to hide any aspect of the operations," Jim said.

He said that in a few years' time the treatments would be repeated so that people could see the development of regeneration and growth of the forest in that time.

Parts of the forest will remain unlogged so there will always be a comparison between treated and untreated forest.

The demonstration forest is one of five proposed in the recent Forest Strategy to be created in the south-west.

The others are in Mundaring (Hills Forest), Dwellingup, Margaret River and Big Brook in the Southern Forest Region.

Central Forest regional manager Don Spriggins, who introduced the idea of demonstration forests into CALM, said the idea was to provide people with an

outdoor classroom experience of a forest.

The aim is to show people a compact area of forest where they can see the main elements of a forest ecosystem such as the soils, vegetation, animals, fire, and disease.

This then leads on to how the forest is managed to sustain the production of all the values the community wants from a forest.

Don said the first public tours would give some feedback on what people were interested in and wanted to know more about.

## Interpretation

"We won't be thinking about erecting signs or providing interpretation information until we know what works and what doesn't," Don said.

Don said that how fast the project develops de-

pends on staff availability and funding.

If the idea catches on, each demonstration forest would need a full time person as a coordinator.

In the case of the Collie demonstration forest, the hope was to eventually erect a high fire tower within the forest which visitors could use to get a bird's eye view of the forest and how it was being managed.



*Collie forester Jim Raper points out the attributes of a thinned forest that will soon be on show to the public.*



Collie foresters Glyn  
Jates (second from  
left), Alan Hordacre  
and projects officer  
Drew Griffiths talk  
to Dan Jessen about  
the demonstration  
forest proposed for  
Collie.