

Korean tree contract signed

by Caris Bailey

THE Department of Conservation and Land Management and one of Korea's leading forest product companies, Hansol Forest Products, have signed a formal agreement that will guarantee a \$30 million investment in a new industry for the Collie region.

The 10-year agreement will mean record tree planting in the Wellington catchment area, where previous land clearing has led to salinity problems.

Export income

Once harvesting begins, the pulp wood produced will earn an annual export income of \$25 million.

The agreement, signed in Perth recently, replaces a short term contract reached last year between Hansol and CALM.

Hansol Australia Pty Ltd

has appointed CALM as its agents in a project to plant 10,000 hectares of bluegums.

Hansol's investment will meet all costs of planting, which will be carried out over 10 years. The planting will be done in partnership with local landowners under CALM's sharefarming scheme.

Environment Minister Kevin Minson said that rather than alienating agricultural land to address the land degradation problems, Hansol and CALM would be working together with farmers.

"The tree crop can be integrated with traditional farming, providing an extra source of income, as well as bringing enormous environmental benefits," he said.



Mr Minson said it was a credit to all involved that Western Australia had been able to build a new industry out of addressing the area's land care problems.

CALM Executive Director Syd Shea said Western Australia had the natural conditions and the management skills to produce some of the best wood fibre in the world.

Executive Director Syd Shea and Director of Hansol Australia Mr Lyu, sign the 10-year agreement.

Photo by Ernie McClintock

