

A new course in farm forestry

A post-graduate certificate course in farm forestry recently conducted in Busselton by CALM has attracted wide interest.

The course is being co-ordinated through Melbourne University's School of Forestry, and provides training for extension advisers, leading landholders and others involved in the development of farm forestry.

By Richard Moore

The Federal Government's Farm Forestry Program is funding the course in five States.

The course is run in three short sessions over nine months. The first was run in Narrogin for five days and concentrated on the role of trees in the sustainable man-

agement of farmland.

Topics included trees for control of salination and erosion and for improving agricultural production through shelter.

Armed with this information, participants undertook project work to outline how trees could be used to tackle land-use issues in a catchment of their choice.

Session Two was held in Busselton over five days

and concentrated on aspects of integrating commercial tree growing with farming; tree products and their markets, management requirements, costs, returns, harvesting and processing.

There were more than 30 presenters, mainly from industry and agencies in Western Australia, but also from interstate including Prof. Ian Ferguson from Melbourne

University and Dr Gary Waugh from the CSIRO's Division of Forest Products in Melbourne.

The final two-day session will be held in August and will tackle a major project—the development of a farm forestry plan for a catchment yet to be selected.

The course has attracted wide interest and plans are being made to establish it on a regular basis in WA.



Participants in the National Farm Forestry Course, Busselton. Left to right, Rick Giles (CALM Dwellingup), Peter Steven (Agriculture Victoria), Wayne Burton (CALM, Esperance), Ned Crossley (Department of Agriculture, Narrogin), Volker Mischker (Greening WA, Esperance), Rod Short (Department of Agriculture, Esperance), John Platt (Esperance Land Conservation District Committee), Arthur Lyons (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Melbourne), Bill Russell (Department of Agriculture, Bunbury), David Jenkins (Bridgetown farmer), Rowan Reid (Course Co-ordinator, Melbourne University), Rob Johnstone (South East Forests Foundation, Esperance), Richard Moore and Bob Hingston (CALM, Busselton), Theo Nabben (Department of Agriculture, Bunbury), Peter Coffey (Kojonup farmer), John Winchcombe (CALM, Busselton), and Martine Scheltema (Greening WA, Perth). Photo by Peter Eckersley