

Business units show real growth

CALM's Plantations Group will mark its first anniversary with record plantings this winter. (See page 1.)

Plantations Group Manager Gary Inions said CALM would plant 7000 hectares on farmland in the next few months and another 1500 hectares on second rotation pine sites.

This will increase the current plantation estate of 90 980 hectares by nearly eight per cent.

The Plantations Group was formed in mid-1994, bringing together management of the State's softwood and hardwood plantations, the Plant Propagation Centre at Manjimup and the former Vegetation and Tree

Planting Advisory Service (VATPAS).

This reorganisation addressed the commercial management of the State's plantations, in line with the recommendations of the McCarrey Commission, as well as CALM's social obligations to provide quality advice to landowners

about trees on farms.

The new structure now includes the Softwood Plantations Business Unit, headed by John Kaye; the Hardwood Plantations Business Unit, headed by Gavin Ellis; the Propagation Unit, headed by Peter Young; and the Farm Forestry Unit, headed by John Bartle.

These semi-autonomous business units are directed by a management team, which includes the group manager, administrative support staff, a projects officer and two technical advisers.

"In 12 months we've set up the new structure, (including a new system for financial man-

agement), launched Pine Sharefarms and the Farm Forestry Unit and negotiated new plantings with potential investors," Gary said.

"Pine Sharefarms will oversee a \$3 million dollar, three-year project to establish pine plantations on the sandplains north of Perth.

"CALM's goal is to plant 5000 hectares of already cleared farmland in sharefarming partnerships and to attract private sector investment for even larger plantings.

"The Farm Forestry Unit has been formed to create a new focus on commercial tree crops and our advisory service to landowners.

"We also hope to be able to make a major announcement shortly regarding future projects.

"Negotiations are continuing, and if successful, will lead to a third agency agreement between CALM and overseas investors."

There are more than one million ha of already cleared agricultural land in the South-West of Western Australia where it would be possible to grow commercial tree crops.

CALM estimates that tree-planting projects across the South-West have the potential to generate \$500 000 000 of export income per annum by early next century.

Plans for the next 12 months include implementing the new accounting system; the sale of non-productive assets and a management review to assess the efficiency of the new structure.



Hand hoeing pinaster seedlings are, left to right, Bev Pollitt, Claire Mark and Carol Paterson. Photo by Jiri Lochman

