

Hansol an award finalist

THE landcare efforts of one of the biggest tree planters in the South-West have been recognised at a recent State Landcare Conference.

Hansol Australia Pty Ltd, which is working to plant 20,000 hectares of bluegums in the south-west, was a finalist in the 1997 Landcare Australia Award for Western Australian business.

More than 400 delegates attended the State Landcare Conference in Geraldton.

The awards were first presented in 1991 by Landcare Australia Limited as part of its charter from the Federal Government to promote a landcare ethic across Australia. The State and national competitions are held in alternative years.

This year's State awards were judged in 12 categories, recognising the outstanding landcare efforts of primary producers, individuals, landcare groups, schools, businesses,

local government authorities, researchers and the media.

Hansol Australia was set up in 1993 to plant bluegums in sharefarming agreements with local landowners. The trees will be harvested about 10 years after planting and the woodfibre produced will be used to make high-grade paper.

Hansol is a subsidiary of Korea's leading paper manufacturer and a major forest products company. The company chose WA's South-West for their new plantation project after studying potential tree crop regions around the world.

The company has appointed CALM as their project manager under a 25-year contract.

The Manager of Hansol Australia, Mr Frank Lee, said 6,400 hectares had already been planted under the company's 10-year planting program.

The cost of establishing 20,000 hectares of bluegums is estimated at \$60 million and

another \$80 million will be paid to landowners over the life of the project.

"Hansol is working to replace the traditional concept of plantations as block plantings that replace agriculture," Mr Lee said.

"Instead, we are offering individually designed plantings that will not only produce a competitive return, but will also boost the productivity of other crops and stock and provide valuable landcare.

"This means species such as the salt-tolerant river red gum, and acacias for fodder, can be planted in areas unsuitable for bluegums.

"Hansol is committed to protecting the environment and it is a great honour to have been judged a finalist in the Landcare Awards.

"The highly positive work being done by other applicants makes me particularly proud that Hansol has been included in such company."



Hansol Australia manager Frank Lee (left) and CALM Sharefarm's Lower West manager Tym Duncanson. Photo courtesy Farm Weekly.



THE 1997 NATIONAL
HEALTHCARE AWARDS
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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