

In June 2003, the Forest Products Commission's new commercial tree farming brand, Infitree, was launched by WA Premier, Dr Geoff Gallop.

Designed to boost Western Australia's farming and timber industries, Infitree will aim to increase planting rates up to 20,000 hectares per annum, over the next five years.

Infitree offers revenue-earning opportunities for farmers, addresses salinity and is likely to create employment in regional areas through the injection of investment dollars and the development of commercial infrastructure.

Why Infitree?

The farmer, the land, and the local community are benefactors of Infitree investment. It provides long-term solutions and encourages agricultural integration. The most suitable tree species are matched with the soil and rainfall conditions of a particular area prior to planting. The program focuses on low to medium rainfall areas.

What species are planted?

Maritime pine, radiata pine, several eucalypt species and WA sandalwood are planted in cells defined by the 'Action Plan for Tree Farming in WA'. The largest target areas - Mid West, Esperance and South Coast - have strong drivers related to salinity and water table control. In the South-West, the drivers are the development of a new sawlog resource to replace old growth timbers and the improvement of water quality in priority catchments.



More than 70% of Australia's salt affected land is in Western Australia.

What is the process?

Farmers provide land in exchange for upfront cash payments and a share of the timber crops at harvest time, inclusive of an optional share of carbon revenue.

The partnership between the farmer and Infitree is formalised through a legal contract. The establishment, management, harvesting and marketing of the crop are carried out by the Commission in close consultation with the farmer. The Commission's Infitree staff will assess a site for suitability, prepare the contract and register it on the land title.

The farmer constructs and maintains firebreaks within and around the tree crop according to local authority requirements and provides fencing to protect the crop from stock. A farmer can choose to perform some of the establishment and tending operations in return for current contractor rate payments.

The future

An extensive television and print campaign will progress into 2003/04 with a focus on land acquisition and investment attraction. Further information is available at www.infitree.com.au or on FREECALL number 1800 241 688



The WA Premier, Commission's General Manager and Chairman, and the Hon Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries plant the first Infitree seedlings as a part of the official launch.



The Commission's Chairman and Henry Gillam at the launch of Infitree.