

## T h e Y e a r A h e a d

*In the year ahead, the Commission expects to maintain very close partnerships with the community, industry and government agencies, consistent with the balanced approach to economic, environmental and social values required for sustainable forest management.*

*Consulting with stakeholders.*



### **Power from trees**

The Commission has been encouraging the establishment of three bio-mass energy plants for plantation residues in Perth, Bunbury and Albany, in an effort to increase the production of renewable energy. Detailed feasibility assessments are being conducted by two firms - Babcock & Brown and WA Green Power. The assessment process is due to be completed by January 2004.

### **Future regional planning**

Research has commenced into the land management potential of a number of regional areas. Extensive consultation with regional communities and agencies will be conducted to ensure targeted planting provides regionally-preferred outcomes such as the protection of conservation areas and water resources. The consultation process will ensure a greater understanding of a range of issues including local infrastructure, industries, power and transport sources and soil types. The Natural Resource Management Council and the four catchment councils will participate to ensure the Commission's plans will be compatible with the plans that qualify for Commonwealth National Action Plan funding.

### **Laminated Veneer Lumber plant**

Construction of the LVL plant at Neerabup is expected to be completed in mid 2004 with log production to commence soon after. Initial production is expected to be restricted while the plant is commissioned.

### **Log exports from Albany**

Pentarch Forest Products exports are expected to commence at a rate of approximately 100,000 cubic metres a year, from the Albany port.

### **Wesfi Limited agreement**

The commercial terms associated with the proposed Laminex project are expected to be finalised. Wesfi Limited, now owned by Laminex, has agreed to invest \$1 million a year in the planting of radiata pine as a part of the terms of the *Wood Processing (Wesfi) Agreement Act 2000*. This will contribute to the future supply of timber to its Dardanup factory. The Commission has continued the harvesting and delivery of the agreed 330,000 cubic metres of radiata and Maritime pine per year to Laminex, until 2025. The timber is used in particleboard and medium density fibreboard.

*Harvesting pine from commercial plantations at Gnangara*



### Pinetec sawmill

Construction of the new Pinetec sawmill in the South-West is expected to commence. The sawmill will have a total production capacity of 100,000 to 120,000 cubic metres per year and will be supplied by Commission and private plantations. Pinetec uses predominantly small softwood sawlogs that do not have sufficient strength or size for structural purposes. The sawlogs are used largely in packaging and pallets.

### Hansol Australia chipmill

Construction of the Hansol Australia chipmill is expected to be completed in early 2004. The mill will have the capacity to process 500,000 cubic metres of Tasmanian bluegum logs per year.

### Forest Management Plan

The requirements of the new Forest Management Plan 2004-2015, will be implemented. This will involve the continued restructuring of the native forest timber industry based upon the final determination of sustainable timber yield.

### Indian sandalwood research

Ongoing research will be conducted on the development of high quality genetic Indian sandalwood material and consideration will be given to the establishment of a tree breeding program.

### Marri furniture

Further expansion of potential marri furniture markets will be sought. More permanent arrangements will be pursued to access marri furniture grade timber through negotiation and the establishment of marri residue contracts of sale.

### Jarrah and karri sawlog contracts

Contracts will be developed for some or all of the 10 industry proposals for the future use of jarrah sawlogs and other prior commitments for jarrah and karri at the Nannup, Greenbushes and Pemberton mills. This will lead to new processing industries in the South-West, with a view to maximising regional benefits.

### Craftwood strategy

The Commission will develop and implement a craftwood strategy for South-West native forests.

### Export marketing

Assistance for the furniture industry in its export and marketing efforts will be ongoing as will the progress of the Design Research Centre. The next export events will be the furniture show at High Point, North Carolina in October 2003 and the Milan International Furniture Fair in April 2004.



*Hardwood sawlogs.*



*Wesli Limited staff monitor the MDF production line.*



*Jarrah and marri forest*