



DAVIES LAUNCHES MOUNT MARSHALL SANDALWOOD PROJECT

12 September 2011

Member for the Agricultural Region, Mia Davies launched the Mount Marshall Sandalwood plantation, near Bencubbin on Friday.

Ms Davies planted a tree at the event, saying the project had the potential to bring benefits, both economic and social, to the region.

“This is the sort of community led project that can create local jobs and opportunities and make towns in regional WA a better place to live, work and invest,” Ms Davies said.

“The Mount Marshall sandalwood project group has a bold vision to plant 50,000 hectares to bio-diverse sandalwood systems over the next 20 years.”

The group said the aim for these plantations is not take over entire farms, but to utilize the poorer performing soils and to protect the remaining productive agricultural land.

Ms Davies congratulated landowners Bob and Ros Huxley and Shire Councilor and landowner Mike Hogan on their work promoting the project and establishing sandalwood plantations on their properties.

“The project group has been very proactive in hosting a number of community workshops in the region, complete with financial, agricultural and economic advisors, to discuss opportunities for locals wishing to engage with the project.

“Sandalwood plantings offer a number of benefits, including providing habitat and linking the landscape, preventing wind erosion and helping to address salinity.”

Ms Davies congratulated the Mount Marshall Sandalwood project group for working with the Australian Sandalwood Network and Wheatbelt NRM, which provided more than \$130,000 for the workshops, launch and establishment of sites to get this project up and running.



Left: Michael Hogan (Shire councilor and local farmer), Hon Mia Davies MLC and Bob Huxley (local farmer) at the Mount Marshall Sandalwood project launch.

For more information please contact Hon Mia Davies MLC on 0412 656 005 or mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au.

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