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Focus on farm forestry

Is farm forestry in the Great Southern still viable and will the new carbon economy lead to a planting boom?

Find out the answers to these questions and many more at the inaugural Farm Forestry Futures forum in Albany on Friday June 10.

Hosted by South Coast NRM, the forum features the Hon. Terry Redman; Minister for Agriculture and Food, Forestry, Corrective Services, as keynote speaker along with the federal Department of Climate Change's Sarah Bellamy and Dr John McGrath from Future Farm Industries CRC.

They will join other speakers from local government, the carbon offset industry and local tree farms to discuss the future of our forest resources, timber markets and products, as well as the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative.

South Coast NRM event coordinator Penni Hewett said she hoped the forum would open communication between farm forestry growers and those setting direction for wood products in Western Australia.

"Farmers who've committed significant areas of their farms to tree planting in order to address environmental issues still want to realise an economic return from these trees. They want to know whether there will be a market for wood grown on farm land, what the market will look like, and whether there'll be a big enough resource to supply industry," she said.

"The Farm Forestry Futures Forum will provide a great opportunity for people to find out more about what lies ahead for farm forestry resources and how we should be shaping the resource to fit the demand."

The forum begins at 8.30am at the Dog Rock Convention Centre and will conclude with drinks and nibbles from 5pm. Booking forms and the full program can be downloaded from the South Coast NRM website www.southcoastnrm.com.au.

The cost is \$45 per person or \$20 concession for pensioners and students. All bookings to Penni Hewett on 9845 8540.

ENDS

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