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Industry body calls for plantation policy

SEAN VAN DER WIELEN

The State's forestry advocacy body has revealed its request for a State plantations policy and support for ecological thinning ahead of the State election.

The Forest Industries Federation of WA released its Key Industry Asks document on Monday, which outlines the steps it believes need to be taken to make the State "self-reliant" in timber production.

Five main steps are included in the document, beginning with a State plantations policy which would see plantations treated the same as crops in agricultural land areas and treat State Government and private

plantations the same under planning laws.

The industry body wants to see the State Government's softwood land holdings increase to a minimum of 100,000ha over the next decade, arguing the Government's \$350 million commitment to grow holdings between 2021 and 2031 is insufficient.

It has requested the State Government encourage the use of timber and implement a 50 per cent target for use of sustainably sourced timbers in government construction projects.

Rounding out its demands is a call for ecological thinning to be encouraged in both State and privately owned native forests in WA,

for plantations to be considered an "asset of State significance" in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' fire mitigation and control strategy, and for more prescribed burning to protect plantations from fire risks.

Chief executive Adele Farina said the requested measures were "simple but key steps" to support the industry and maintain WA's timber supply.

"Our Key Industry Asks document has been carefully thought out to act as a guide for both government and opposition members," she said.

"The goal is to strengthen our homegrown timber

production and processing capabilities, avoiding reliance on timber imports.

"There are many other benefits associated with reaching that goal, including helping fight climate change, providing employment, underpinning regional communities and creating renewable and sustainable products."

The forestry industry has been hit hard by the State Government's ban on native timber logging at the start of the year, much of which had been centred on Manjimup and neighbouring areas.

More than \$80m has been spent by the State Government to assist with the transition.

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HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE

Southern Forest & Blackwood Valley Community Notice Board

Manji Pantry & Op Shop (Seventh Day Adventist Church)
33 Highfield Street, Manjimup | Ross Craig - 0456 747 719
Pantry - 2nd & 4th Thursday monthly from 10 - 11.30am
Op Shop - Wednesday & Thursday from 10am to 4pm

Warren Valley Community Church
16 Rose Street, Manjimup | Tim - 0477 289 632
Blankets available in box at Church Entry for those in need

Manjimup Farmers Market
Manjin Park, Manjimup | Paula - 0401 172 064
Saturdays from 8.30am to 12.30pm

Bridgetown River Markets
River Park, Bridgetown | Visitor's Centre - 9761 1740
Every 2nd Sunday from 7.30am to Noon

Mobile Foodbank @ Bridgetown Community Hub
36 Steere Street, Bridgetown | Call - 9761 2139
2nd & 4th Tuesday monthly from 11.15am to Noon

St Vincent De Paul Emergency Relief
Manjimup - 9777 1014 | Pemberton/Northcliffe - 0438 195 444
Appointments required prior to attendance

Dingup Hall Market Day
Julie - 0404 879 887 | Dingup Hall - Fernhill Road, Dingup
Saturday 7th December 2024 | 9.30am to 4pm

Manjimup-Bridgetown Times



More than 200 students from Christ Church Grammar School were in attendance. Picture: Paul Rumenos

STUDENTS PITCH IN AT ROTARY BBQ

MELISSA PEDELTY

The Rotary Club of Manjimup goes to great lengths to raise funds for local community projects and its recent annual barbecue was no exception.

For more than eight years, students from Christ Church Grammar School in Perth have par-

ticipated in the barbecue as part of their Year 10 excursion, while exploring the Manjimup Heritage Park.

This year 235 students attended the event with Rotary president Paul Rumenos saying the barbecue was an opportunity to raise community funds and showcase Manjimup.

"I love that they get to know our community," he said.

"The kids run around, they love the park. For all the effort, it's very rewarding."

The students will go on to experience more of the Lower South West region over the coming days, making their way through

Northcliffe to Walpole. Mr Rumenos said the barbecue initially started as a fundraising opportunity and had blossomed into a rewarding experience for both the students and club members, many of whom have their own connection to the secondary school located in Claremont.

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