

Calling all farmers. Landcare needs land!

16 April 2018: Thousands of eucalyptus seedlings are looking for homes to be planted.

The Farm Forestry Landcare Network needs unproductive land in the Coorong, Murraylands, and Riverland regions to turn into demonstration sites for sustainable timber forests.

The call out is part of Landcare Australia's 'Agroforestry Development Species Demonstration Sites' project launched in Monarto South last year. Funded by Australian Home Heating Association (AHHA), the project aims to develop and share knowledge of silviculture within the farming industry and increase sustainability.

Farm Forestry Landcare Network chairman Ian Filmer said the project is a great opportunity for farmers to turn unproductive land into a commercial opportunity.

"We're not looking for prime cropping real estate," Ian said. "What we want is unproductive sand hill areas that can be repurposed into sustainably managed plantations which can generate income for farmers. All it takes is one hectare and we can plant 800 to 1000 trees of different eucalyptus varieties."

The Farm Forestry Landcare Network is offering farmers trees, advice on preparing the land for planting, and ongoing monitoring of the plantation.

The project already has several sites prepared in the area. The Farm Forestry Landcare Network hopes to increase the number of sites to increase the scope of learning from the project.

The success of the project has huge commercial potential for the home heating industry. Establishing plantations on otherwise unused land means farmers can diversify their income streams, by selling timber for home heating, whilst caring for the environment.

According to AHHA general manager Demi Brown, the use of firewood sourced from sustainably managed plantations offers environmental, social and economic benefits.

"Partnering with Landcare Australia on this project is testimony to AHHA's commitment to environmental sustainability," Demi said.

"The more farmers we can encourage to join, the more sustainable plantations we can benefit from in the future."

Planting is expected to begin in July 2018. Farmers wishing to join the project can contact Adin Lang, Landcare Australia: 0438 908 829 or email: enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au

ENDS

Media contact

Naomi Straw

Communications Executive – Landcare Australia

naomi.straw@landcareaustralia.com.au

(02) 8440 8823

About Landcare Australia

Landcare Australia is a not-for-profit organisation with a vision of all Australians actively caring for the land and water that sustain us. For over 25 years, Landcare Australia has worked collaboratively with federal, state and local governments, corporate partners and sponsors, and individuals, to build capacity for the Landcare community to better manage Australia's crucial land and water assets. Landcare Australia delivers hundreds of projects annually through the volunteer efforts of local community groups, Indigenous groups, and the more than 5,400 Landcare and Coastcare groups that make up the Landcare movement.

www.landcareaustralia.org.au