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Funding extension announced for South West Timber Hub

THE South West Timber Hub has received a funding extension until 2025, as part of \$8.9 million announced by the Federal Government.

Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries Jonno Duniam and Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia David Littleproud announced the extension, flagging the investment in the Regional Forestry Hubs as a show of faith in Australia's forest industries and the benefits that they deliver for regional communities and the Australian economy.

"The hub model empowers each region to identify and assess their local issues and develop local solutions, while benefitting from working alongside other hubs across Australia," Assistant Minister Duniam said.

"This is all about getting the right trees, at the right scale, in the right places.

"I am really pleased with the way the hubs are working together and building momentum across the country, and they have been enormously popular with the industry.

"The sector has faced numerous challenges over the last couple of years, but our forest industries are resilient and we're working with the sector to secure its future."

Nationally, there are now 11 regional forestry hubs, including WA's South West Timber Hub.

South West Timber Hub Project Manager Wendy Perdon said the funding was a much-needed confidence boost for WA's forest industries.

"This funding extension will allow the South West Timber Hub to build on the valuable projects currently being undertaken, which are designed to strengthen and grow WA's forest industries," Mrs Perdon said.

"These projects include focal points like ecological thinning for forest health and private forestry, both of which are extremely important to industry.

"We are also working towards enhancing the overall community awareness and understanding of forestry.

"We have a unique and sustainable industry in WA and this funding will assist in developing it even further."

Federal Member for Forrest Nola Marino MP said this new funding secured the future of the South West Timber Hub and its important work within the industry especially given the recent State Government announcement.

“The hub is assessing production forestry resources, processing capacity and infrastructure needs and limitations and finding ways to support innovation and growth in our region,” Ms Marina said.

“South West WA is a key forestry area with strong potential for growth and innovation, with skilled forestry workers, transport routes and processing plants. This funding will help the local industry to meet the challenges and timber demands of the future.”

Image: South West Timber Hub Project Manager Wendy Perdon (left) with Federal Member for Forrest Nola Marino MP.

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