



# Press Release

Friday 3rd July, 2009

## Oil Mallee — Striking It Rich

The potential of planting oil mallee eucalypts in the region will be investigated in a free workshop hosted by Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc. (MSF)

MSF has invited a delegation from Western Australia to present information about their experiences and the oil mallee industry to interested people from the Victorian Mallee.

The oil mallee industry has been developing for several years in Western Australia but interest is relatively new in the eastern states.

Mallee, with its drought tolerant nature, is an ideal tree to successfully cultivate in the low rainfall Victorian Mallee.

It is however the many uses for the tree that offer potential environmental and financial benefits to primary producers in the region.

“Although we have a lot of research to do”, said Jim Maynard, Chairman of MSF, “there could be huge benefits for the region in establishing some Mallee plantings.”

“For instance, agriculture is not yet part of the Emissions Trading Scheme, but if it’s eventually included, planting mallee eucalypts with some careful management could provide valuable carbon off-sets.”

Mr. Maynard continued, “There is also a lot to be said for diversifying on farm as one means of drought proofing the property.”

The Victorian Department of Primary Industries is currently conducting trials into the use of mallees as biochar which is thought to improve the carbon profile of the soil as well as sequestering carbon for substantial periods of time. A representative from DPI will be explaining the process at the workshop.

The predominate market for mallee in Western Australia is the oil industry, extracting the oil from the wood for use in cleaning products and as a biofuel. Mallee is also being used as an alternate fodder supply.

This workshop is funded through an Industry Development Grant from the Victorian Department of Primary Industries.

Date: Thursday 16th July, 2009  
Time: 10am to 3pm  
Venue: Acacia Room,  
Department of Primary Industries, Irymple  
RSVP: MSF on 03 5021 9100 or [admin@msfp.org.au](mailto:admin@msfp.org.au)

Lunch and refreshments will be provided so bookings are preferred for catering purposes. Everyone is welcome.

*All media are welcome to attend.*

*Enquiries to Kathryn Kenny on 03 5021 9100 or 0429 448 097.*