

ABC 891 Adelaide (Adelaide)

Evenings - 10/11/2010 7:37 PM

Suzy Ramone

Producer Ms Amy Verrall 08 8343 4420

Dr. Geoff Woodall, Sandalwood expert says he has been working to develop sandalwood as a crop for 12 years as it grows well in arid lands. Paul Hodges, Natural Resources Management Officer, Eyre Peninsula Natural Resource Management Board confirms the board is looking to introduce sandalwood to SA and notes it was exploited in the early 1900s and sold to China. He says they are currently harvesting seed to increase the range but says he is unsure if it was grown in the town of Sandalwood near Mallee. Hodges says it has been trialled successfully in the upper east and Ceduna. Hodges discusses the process of care sandalwood requires. Ramone asks if there is an established industry and Hodges says they are still in the early stages but will hopefully get crops going becoming an alternative source of income for farmers. Hodges says the plants have to be about 30 years old for harvest Hodges says growing it in a native garden could be an option. Hodges says if anyone is interested they could contact the board for involvement in rebatch projects.

Interviewees: Dr. Geoff Woodall, Sandalwood expert ; Paul Hodges, Natural Resources Management Officer, Eyre Peninsula Natural Resource Management Board

Duration: 7.52

Summary ID: W00041323382

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