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Timber industry drives employment boost for Manjimup

MANJIMUP will receive an economic boost this year, with the re-activation of a local timber processing centre creating 65 full-time jobs.

The new jobs are the result of a \$14 million-dollar investment from Parkside Timber, as it retires its dry mill at Greenbushes to upgrade the Manjimup facility.

A spokesperson for Parkside said recruitment had already started, with 10 full-time staff employed to date.

“Our business plan is for the majority of our wood fibre to be processed into high-end, value-added products, with an emphasis on wood utilisation,” the spokesperson said.

The upgrade will introduce world-class timber processing technology including two high-speed scanning and docking lines, an auto stacking line, finger joining line, large end section joinery planning line and a 56-pocket bin sorter.

A pre-drier shed will also be repurposed into a 1000m³ kiln.

“Our finger jointing line allows us to process shorter lengths of timber that would normally go to waste and our paint line is used to pre-oil decking for the retail market. Together with our pocket sorter, we produce five-piece handy man decking bundles,” the spokesperson said.

“We are targeting these oiled bundled products directly against imported timber products which come from countries that do not share our high environmental standards.”

Shire President Paul Omodei welcomed the news and said Parkside’s investment was significant for Manjimup.

“This investment will create secure jobs for local people, which is good for those seeking secure employment,” Mr Omodei said.

“That is on top of the jobs created by the six other timber mills, contractors and associated businesses in our district.

“The Shire of Manjimup are strong supporters of the timber industry in our region, it is part of our strategic plan, and we consider the industry to be very important to our economy and to our community.”

Photos:

Pre-coated karri decking will be one of the products to be produced at Parkside Timber's upgraded Manjimup facility. The \$14 million-dollar upgrade will create 65 new full-time jobs in Manjimup.

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About FIFWA

Forest Industries Federation WA (FIFWA) has been representing the interests of the Western Australian timber industry since 1895. The industry is a key driver of economic activity and jobs in Western Australia, contributing \$1.4 billion to the WA economy and creating about 6000 jobs in WA, with more than 90% of those in regional areas. The industry employs careful and comprehensive management policies to ensure WA's forests are sustainably managed. Less than 1% of the total forest area is harvested annually, with the area harvested then replanted. In 2001 WA became the first state to abolish harvesting old-growth forests.