

Spudshed looks further afield

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Spudshed owner Tony Galati

Spudshed owner Tony Galati has said he is already "actively looking" at further South West expansion despite their first store still being several months from completion.

Spudshed's retail and distribution centre will be the first tenant at the Australind City industrial estate near the corner of Forrest Highway and Paris Road.

Site works have begun on the store's 2.2ha site but Mr Galati said he planned to open other Spudshed stores in the South West.

While he would not exactly reveal where it was, he said he was eyeing off a site about 25km from Bunbury.

Mr Galati toured the Australind site on Thursday and said the South West was a logical location for Spudshed's expansion.

"This area is where we grow in - most vegetables come from here so why can't Bunbury people enjoy the same prices as Perth?" he said.

"It will bring a lot of opportunities like employment, cheaper groceries and the local produce will give opportunities to a lot of farmers and growers so everybody will be a winner."

The store plans to be open by the end of 2016 and aims to include a retail component that will operate 24 hours like its distribution centre.

Harvey shire president Tania Jackson believed the community saw Spudshed as a "terrific asset" and said it would bring "huge economic benefits" with job creation.

She said the 24-hour retail component still need to be deliberated by council but hinted it could be voted down, believing they needed to provide equity with existing shopping centres in the region.

She also said the council did not have the final say on the trading hours and would only be making recommendations.