

# Booth backs Winton-based whaling movie

LIZ NEWELL

WA model turned award-winning actress Emma Booth has thrown her support behind Impian Films' adaptation of Tim Winton's *Shallows*.

The Perth beauty, best known for her role as prostitute-turned-police informant Kim Hollingsworth on television's *Underbelly: The Golden Mile*, said she fully supports the project, which will see Winton's first Miles Franklin winner translated on to the screen.

The project has particular links to Albany and its whaling history, with the novel chronicling the history of the whaling industry, with particular focus on the town of Angelus (based on Albany).

"It will be amazing for the WA film industry and bring more awareness to the history in WA, which maybe a lot of people don't actually know about," she said. "I'm behind it 100 per cent, all the way, in getting it made, for that reason."

Booth, a passionate advocate of the importance of conservation and the protection of animals, has recently completed working on

the miniseries *Cloudstreet* (based on another Winton novel) and was immensely pleased to see *Shallows* creating awareness of the issues.

"To get a film up like this, to bring awareness around the subject and also a really important part in WA's history, I think it would just be a fantastic," she said.

Impian Films producer Stephen Van Mil, who has garnered full support from Winton and is attracting the interest of award-winning director Peter Weir (*Galipoli*, *Dead Poets Society*) and cinematographer Russell Boyd, approached Booth about a year ago and the two have been "in talks" since.

While Booth stresses no contracts have been signed by either she, Weir or Boyd, she is happy to admit the project is "really exciting".

"Right now, it's about getting this message out and this film up," she said. "I think it's really important to tell stories that matter. That's what I want to put my heart into and this one really shone for me when I was approached."

[liz.newell@albanyadvertiser.com](mailto:liz.newell@albanyadvertiser.com)



Perth model turned award-winning actress Emma Booth has thrown her full support behind *Shallows*.

Picture: RGM